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US soccer falls to Belgium in extra time, ending tournament run

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WWII Memorial prayer inscription approved despite objections

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Navy gets first female four-star admiral | Page 4

PETER D. LAWTON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Adm. Michelle Howard helps Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus as he and Wayne Cowles, Howard's husband, put four-star shoulder boards on Howard's uniform on Tuesday during her promotion ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.

Concerns of 'mission creep' in Iraq denied

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is pushing back against the notion that there is "mission creep" in Iraq as more troops, aircraft and ammunition are deployed to defend against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant militants.

"There's no mission creep. The missions haven't changed," Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said Tuesday in response to a reporter's question at a press conference. "Some of the numbers have been added in the security-assistance realm ... It's very fluid, and the commander-in-chief and the military leadership here in the building, I think, expect and should have a certain measure of flexibility here in how we ... manage the resources available."

In recent days, the U.S. military sent approximately 300 personnel to reinforce security at the embassy, its support facilities, the Baghdad International Airport and travel routes. The augmented force includes Apache attack helicopters and unarmed drones, according to Kirby.

SEE CREEP ON PAGE 2

Fight over US veterans' remains in Philippines graves continues

By MATT BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Defense Department's accounting agencies have agreed to disinter and conduct DNA testing on the remains of 10 World War II servicemen who were buried as unknowns in the Philippines, after years of fighting against unearthing the bodies.

But now the relative of one veteran believed to be buried there might block the exhumation over fears that the Joint

Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command, Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, and Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory are not equipped to properly test the remains.

For years, John Eakin has fought with JPAC/DPMO to exhume the remains for identification.

Eakin's cousin Pvt. Arthur "Bud" Kelder was one of the 10 moved to the

HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLOFY
A COMRADE IN ARMS
KNOWN BUT TO GOD

Manila American Cemetery from the Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp in Luzon.

Records show that Kelder sur-

Family members of Pvt. Arthur "Bud" Kelder believe he is buried as an unknown in grave A-12-195 at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

vived the Bataan Death March in April 1942, but succumbed to malaria, pellagra and diphtheria in the camp on Nov. 19.

The 26-year-old Army medic was buried with 13 other Americans who died that day in communal grave 717.

Just last year, JPAC/DPMO — which has been under intense scrutiny following a series of missteps — said there was not enough conclusive evidence to warrant disinterment of the remains.

SEE GRAVES ON PAGE 8

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We will bring back the caliphate, and if God does not make it our fate to restore the caliphate, then we ask him to grant us martyrdom.”

— Omar al-Shishani, a Chechen leader in the Syrian branch of the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant

See story on Page 12

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- 5. Howard becomes Navy's first female four-star

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Ed Sheeran wears heart on his wrinkled sleeve on new album

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MILITARY

Al-Maliki: Islamic state threatens region

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN AND SAMEER N. YACOB The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An extremist group's declaration of an Islamic state in territory it has seized in Iraq and Syria poses a threat to the entire region, Iraq's prime minister warned Wednesday, saying that “no one in Iraq or any neighboring country will be safe from these plans.”

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant announced this week that it has unilaterally established a caliphate in the areas under its control. It declared the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the head of its new self-styled state governed by Shariah law and demanded that all Muslims pledge allegiance to him.

In his weekly address, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said the militant group's announcement “is a message to all the states in the region that you are inside the red circle now.”

With the support of their Sunni militants, the extremist group has overrun huge swaths of northern and western Iraq in recent weeks, including the country's second-



A black flag used by the al-Qaida-inspired Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant waves from a police station in Mosul, Iraq, on Tuesday.

largest city, Mosul. The blitz across Iraq appears to have crested, at least for now, as it reaches Shiite-majority areas, where resistance is tougher, and as it seeks to consolidate its control of the territory already in hand.

In what appeared to be a bid to peel away some of the extremist group's allies among Iraq's Sunni

tribes, al-Maliki offered an amnesty “for all tribes and people who got involved in any act against the state.”

“They should return to their senses. We are not excluding anybody, even those who committed misdeeds, apart from those who killed or shed blood,” he said. “I welcome them to return and stand

with the other tribes that have taken up arms.”

Al-Maliki offered a similar amnesty after militants seized two cities in central Iraq early this year, but few if any Sunnis took up his offer.

With its recent gains, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant now controls a swath of land that stretches from northern Syria to the outskirts of Baghdad in central Iraq. That has sent tremors across the region, particularly in the capitals of Iraq's neighbors — Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Iran.

The Sunni insurgent's offensive is fueled, at least in part, by the Sunni minority's long list of grievances with al-Maliki and his Shiite-led government. They accuse al-Maliki, who himself is Shiite, of treating them like second-class citizens and unfairly targeting them with the security forces.

Iraq's new parliament met for the first time on Tuesday since April elections amid hopes for the swift formation of a new government. Those hopes quickly faded after the legislature deadlocked less than two hours into the meeting when Sunnis and Kurds walked out.

Creep: US sending arms to Iraq, not ruling out possibility of more troops, Kirby says

FROM FRONT PAGE

He said the drones will be remotely piloted by personnel at the airport. He did not say how many of either type of aircraft are there.

The U.S. military has already provided nearly 500 air-to-surface Hellfire missiles to the Iraqis this year, according to the DOD.

A defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss future arms sales, said the DOD is working on follow-on sales for a “wide range” of ammunition beyond what the U.S. has already provided.

“It's certainly not going to be the end,” according to the official.

The official said that the U.S. intends to sell another 800 Hellfires to the Iraqis for use against ISIL, pending congressional notification.

On Wednesday, Bloomberg News reported that the Obama administration is preparing to sell an additional 4,000 Hellfires to the Iraqi government. But the Pentagon would not confirm whether that sale is in the works.

Kirby said the Defense Department believes President Barack Obama has authorized the deployment of a sufficient number of troops for the military to accomplish the two missions it has been given: protect American citizens and property, and advise the Iraqi security forces

in their fight against ISIL.

Of the 770 troops authorized to be deployed, about 650 are in Iraq now, according to Kirby.

Still, he would not rule out the possibility that more troops and assets will be deployed at some point.

“I won't get ahead of decisions that haven't been made yet about the future in terms of other deployments or other numbers. [But] we believe that the numbers that we've been authorized are sufficient to the tasks we've been given with respect to these two mission areas,” Kirby said.

Christopher Harmer, a retired Navy officer who is now a Middle East analyst at the Institute for the Study of War, said the U.S. military needs to be doing more to change the situation on the ground.

“[The advisers] can impact, but it's not going to be consequential and it's not going to be decisive,” he said. “It's almost inevitable that the security situation will require more assistance than the U.S. has currently committed. Whether or not the U.S. decides to give that security assistance is a separate issue.”

Harmer said the Iraqi security forces need “all the close air support they can get” from the U.S., but acknowledged that Apaches would be “very vulnerable” to ISIL anti-aircraft weap-

ons if they are flying low.

Kirby said that only these 300 additional troops and aircraft were being sent into Iraq now.

“The situation has changed on the ground since the 16th of June,” when the first wave of extra U.S. forces were deployed to Baghdad to protect diplomatic facilities. “It's not static. It's different every day. And ISIL continues to pose a legitimate threat to Baghdad and its environs, which includes the airport,” Kirby said.

But Kirby said it doesn't appear as if ISIL is about to overrun the capital.

“They just continue to put pressure to the north and to the west of Baghdad, but we haven't seen any major advances or anything like that ... It's difficult to tell what their intent is. Clearly they're posing a threat to Baghdad by their sheer presence and their activity and that fact that they are trying to consolidate gains that they have made elsewhere in Iraq. But we haven't seen any overt move, you know, to come in,” he said.

Kirby said the Pentagon believes that the Iraqi security forces, aided by Shia militia, will fight to defend the capital if ISIL launches a major assault.

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MILITARY

Navy promotes first female four-star

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Adm. Michelle Janine Howard became the highest-ranking female officer in the history of the U.S. Navy on Tuesday when she was given a fourth star and assumed the role of vice chief of naval operations.

"Her accomplishment is a direct example of a Navy that now, more than ever, reflects the nation it serves — a nation where success is not borne of race, gender or religion, but of skill and ability," Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said during a ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, according to a Navy press release.

This isn't the first time that Howard was a trailblazer. In 1999, she became the first black woman to command a ship in the U.S. Navy when she took command of the USS Rushmore, a dock landing ship.

She has also commanded Amphibious Squadron Seven from May 2004 to September 2005; Expeditionary Strike Group Two from April 2009 to July 2010; Task Force 151, a multinational

"Her accomplishment is a direct example of a Navy that now, more than ever, reflects the nation it serves — a nation where success is not borne of race, gender or religion, but of skill and ability."

Secretary of the Navy
Ray Mabus

counterpiracy effort, and Task Force 51, Expeditionary Forces in 2009; and the Maritime Task Force for the BALTOPS multinational exercise in 2010.

Howard served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm as the chief engineer on board the USS Mount Hood ammunition ship.

She was executive officer of the dock landing ship USS Tortuga while the vessel supported Operation Joint Endeavor, a peacekeeping effort in the former Republic of Yugoslavia.



PETER D. LAWLOW/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, left, and Wayne Cowles, husband of Adm. Michelle Howard, put four-star shoulder boards on Howard's uniform during her promotion ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.

Howard is relieving Adm. Mark Ferguson III as VCNO, the No. 2 officer in the Navy. She will be the first black to hold that position. She was previously the deputy chief of naval operations for operations, plans and strategy.

Howard graduated from the

U.S. Naval Academy in 1982. She also holds a Masters in Military Arts and Sciences from the Army's Command and General Staff College.

She has received several prestigious awards given to women and minorities, including the

Navy/Navy League Captain Winifred Collins award; 2011 USO Military Woman of the Year; and the NAACP Chairman's Image Award.

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MILITARY

Obama authorizes WWII Memorial prayer

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The World War II Memorial in Washington may soon have a new prayer inscription added, disappointing secularists and rights groups who had opposed the measure based on opposition to religion displayed in public spaces.

President Barack Obama signed a law Monday calling for the fountain memorial to display the text of a national prayer given by Franklin D. Roosevelt during the D-Day invasion of Europe in 1944, which unleashed fierce fighting and eventually led to the end of the war.

“With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholty forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace, a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men,” the prayer reads in part.

The addition was sponsored by Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Mary Landrieu, D-La., and supported by the Christian Coalition of America, one of the country’s

largest conservative political groups.

The Christian Coalition said the memorial will help recognize the power of prayer during wartime.

“President Roosevelt asked us to come together to pray for these courageous heroes, and his words provided strength and comfort to a grieving nation,” Portman said in a statement Tuesday.

The measure had drawn criticism for publicly advocating Christianity from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Inquiry, a nonprofit secular advocacy group based in New York that aims to end the influence of religion on public policy.

The prayer addition is “inappropriate” and “shows a lack of respect” for the religious diversity in the United States, including about 30 percent of U.S. servicemembers who are non-Christian, the ACLU wrote in a letter of opposition to Congress last year when the proposal was introduced.

Four other groups including the American Jewish Committee and the Hindu American Foundation signed the letter last summer.

The FDR prayer mentions “our Lord” and “almighty God”

throughout, and calls on D-Day troops “to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization,” though there is no mention of Jesus Christ.

“The level of religiosity within a given prayer is really beside the point,” said Paul Fidalgo, communications director for the Center for Inquiry. “The real issue is that it is a prayer, regardless of the degree. It is an invocation within a religious tradition.”

Fidalgo said the presence of the prayer at the national memorial lends “a kind of endorsement weight” to Christianity.

Groups such as the ACLU and the Center for Inquiry support the free exercise of religion by Americans but oppose government endorsing or favoring specific religions.

The prayer inscription will be added to the World War II Memorial, on the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, after it is reviewed and approved by the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission.

Under law, the commission has the final say on monument construction on the Mall.

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DOUG GILLAM/Stars and Stripes

A decision to allow the text of a national prayer by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to be inscribed at the World War II Memorial in Washington has raised some religious objections.

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PACIFIC



Ahn Young-Joon/AP

A protester steps on a portrait of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the Rising Sun flag during an anti-Japan rally in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday.

China rips Japan's revised military stance; others likely to support it

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The illustrations in Chinese state-controlled newspapers of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as Adolf Hitler and Rambo settled any question of how Beijing would react to Tokyo's decision Tuesday to defend its allies in combat.

Japan's reinterpretation of its pacifist constitution through a Cabinet resolution adopted Tuesday drew criticism from Beijing, plaudits from the United States and generally muted support from Asian countries trying to balance their interests with those of the region's biggest power.

The end to the ban on collective self-defense will allow Japan to defend close allies, rescue Japanese hostages abroad and possibly undertake more United Nations missions. Under the resolution, collective self-defense could be invoked if Japan determines that a lack of action could clearly endanger its security and its people.

It's unclear which countries fit the description of "close allies" besides the U.S. and Australia, two nations quite capable of defending themselves under normal circumstances. However, nations wary of China's growing assertiveness will welcome Japan's recent security moves, according to government statements and regional security analysts.

The Philippines, which is locked in a standoff with China over territorial claims to islands within 200 miles of the Philip-

pines' main islands, would like to be one of those close allies.

Even before the resolution was adopted, Philippine President Benigno Aquino praised Japan's "wherever/whenever to come to the aid of those in need."

Other countries in the region are likely to share the Philippines' praise of the move, said Rory Medcalf, director of the international security program at the Lowy Institute, an Australia-based think tank.

Except for China and the two Koreas, "most other governments in Asia will quietly welcome a more normal Japan, a nation that uses its advanced military to help others build their capabilities or offer support in a crisis," Medcalf said.

Besides the Philippines, nations facing territorial disputes with China include Japan, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia and India. China, on the basis of what it says is historical discovery, claims about 90 percent of the resource-rich South China Sea.

The U.S. takes no position on territorial sovereignty but has been deepening its military relationships with each of those countries in recent years.

The view of Chinese officials on the Japanese measure was unambiguous.

Japan adopted the resolution by making up a "so-called 'China threat,'" Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said during a daily news briefing.

Hong also called attention to Japanese public opinion polls, some of which show that a major-

ity oppose collective self-defense on the grounds that it could lead Japan into an unnecessary war.

"It is the general public of Japan that should have the final say on which way Japan should follow in terms of national development," Hong said.

Chinese media outlets, including the Chinese Communist Party-affiliated Global Times, the People's Daily and the Xinhua wire service, all reported on Japanese protests but gave little or no attention to the Cabinet resolution itself.

South Korea reacted critically but cautiously, even though it may benefit from Japan's decision to aid allies if North Korea ever attacks.

The Japanese government is deeply unpopular in South Korea over the perception that it is not appropriately repentant for Japan's actions before and during World War II — particularly for forcing Korean women to work as sex laborers called "comfort women."

"Abe could and should have done more to reduce negative opinion in Korea by showing more sensitivity about the dark side of Japan's history, for instance over imperialism and comfort women," Medcalf said.

Seoul said it would "never tolerate" Japan's use of collective self-defense without its consent "on matters that can affect the security of the Korean Peninsula or national interests of the ROK," according to an official statement.

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Dempsey applauds Japan's move on defense of allies

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

HONOLULU, Hawaii — U.S. and South Korean defense leaders strongly support Japan's move toward allowing its armed forces to defend allies in combat, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a speech Tuesday.

"I think it's a great first step," Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey said of the adoption of a resolution this week by Japan's ruling coalition calling for changes in law that would allow Japan to assist countries with which it has "close ties" if those nations face "clear danger."

Opponents argue the modifications are contrary to the country's pacifist constitution.

Earlier in the day Dempsey met with his counterparts from Japan and South Korea

"to discuss the common thread of North Korea and other challenges we face in the region," he said.

"This was the first time in history that the (uniformed) chiefs of defense from our three countries have met together in person in that context," Dempsey told an audience at the Pacific Forum held at the Pacific Club.

He declined to share many details of that trilateral discussion but offered that the topic of Japan's proposed change of defense posture was central to the agenda.

"As chiefs of defense we had a conversation about what it could mean, but we also had a conversation about what it does not mean," he said. "On that basis, I think we found a little opportunity to develop a little trust among each other."

While the U.S. maintains close defense alliances separately with Japan and South Korea, relations between the two neighbors are icy. Resentments remain in South Korea over Japan's conquest during World War II, and the countries have outstanding disputes over sovereignty of certain islands.

During a news conference Monday, Adm. Harry Harris, the commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, said he believed the change in Japan's constitution would "help stabilize" in the region. "Japan is one of our key allies, and I welcome any improvement in capability that helps improve the alliance that we have with Japan," he said.

Secretary of Defense Chuck

Hagel also issued a statement Tuesday saying that the change would make the alliance between Japan and the U.S. "more effective."

The resolution now moves to Japan's elected Diet.

"Moving it from aspiration to reality is going to take some work, but as a first step in the relationship between Japan and the United States military becoming more interdependent — as opposed to us simply being responsible for protecting the region and the men and women who serve there — I think it's a great first step," Dempsey said.

The U.S. wants to maintain its commitment to its closest allies in the region, including Australia, Dempsey said, adding, "We also want to shape the future of the region so that we can manage a rising China in particular as a stabilizing influence, as an economic engine."

The way to do that, he said, "is to actually be more present, not less present" in the Pacific.

"[I]t would actually be our absence not our presence that could create miscalculation and misperception in the region," he said. "We are a Pacific power and have always been."

He described the trilateral relationship among Japan, South Korea and America as "not a matter of opportunity or choice," but "an imperative" for defending the region against threats by North Korea and others.

"We're well aware, though, that our elected leaders have other issues with which they have to deal," Dempsey said, speaking for counterparts South Korean Navy Adm. Choi Yun-hee and Japanese Air Defense Forces Gen. Shigeru Iwasaki.

"But on certain issues — for example, ballistic missile defense — the future will absolutely demand that we work together," he said. "We're far more capable and can provide far more deterrence and actually defend threats if we work more closely together."

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PACIFIC

US, Philippines finish CARAT exercise amid China tension

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

Some 1,500 U.S. and Filipino sailors and Marines wrapped up a five-day exercise Tuesday that included maneuvers in the South China Sea, simulated beach assaults and other training aimed at getting the forces used to working alongside one other.

The war games — known as Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Philippines — were held amid an escalating maritime dispute between China and several Southeast Asian nations over control of a number of small islands and reefs in the region.

The guided-missile destroyer USS McCain, rescue-and-salvage ship USNS Safeguard, amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland and 1,000 U.S. personnel took part in the exercise.

CARAT, in its 20th year and part of a series of engagements

between the Navy and its counterparts in nine Asian nations, is growing in size and complexity, said Capt. Paul Schlise, commander, Destroyer Squadron 7, who oversaw U.S. forces taking part.

During the event, U.S. sailors and Marines conducted simulated naval engagements with about 500 Filipino personnel and two Philippine Navy frigates, officials said. Philippine helicopters practiced takeoffs and landings from the McCain for the first time, and U.S. and Filipino marines conducted a beach assault in amphibious vehicles launched from the Ashland, Schlise said.

The combined forces, which included riverine troops, explosive ordnance disposal experts, Navy Seabees and divers, practiced search and seizure of vessels on the high seas, tactical maneuvering and salvage operations, he said.

The Philippines, one of the nations embroiled in the territorial dispute with China over resource-rich islands, is negotiating an agreement that aims to increase the presence of U.S. rotational forces in the country.

Schlise didn't directly address that issue in an interview Tuesday.

"We have shared maritime security interests in the region," he said. "This exercise is about relationship building and interoperability."

Officials from the Armed Forces of the Philippines could not be reached for comment.

However, retired U.S. Navy captain Jan van Tol, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, said some of the activities that the U.S. and Filipino forces were practicing, such as amphibious landings, sea patrols and surveillance, would be relevant to operations near various



GILBERT A. BOULBOU/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

U.S. and Philippine marines conduct amphibious landing exercises during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Philippines.

islands in the South China Sea.

"These are assuredly in keeping with the objective of enhancing regional state maritime security capabilities," he said.

America is interested in strengthening the capabilities of friendly states in Southeast Asia for peace-time missions such as anti-piracy and in increasing their ability to defend their own security interests, he said.

Schlise said he expects CARAT

Philippines to keep growing in years to come, although he did not provide details of what that might involve.

CARAT exercises have also been conducted in Malaysia and Indonesia this year. Additional CARAT events will be held this year in Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Singapore and East Timor, according to a Navy news release.

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MILITARY

Some worry if VA nominee is up to challenge

By **MATTHEW DALY**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A one-time Army Ranger and former CEO of a Fortune 500 consumer products company, Robert McDonald may face his toughest challenge yet in fixing the huge, scandal-plagued Veterans Affairs Department.

Veterans groups worry that the longtime corporate executive, nominated by President Barack Obama to lead the VA, may have trouble adjusting to a far-flung bureaucracy of more than 300,000 employees, where hundreds of hospital directors and other career executives wield great power far from the agency's Washington headquarters.

"Procter & Gamble is going to feel like a Ferrari compared to the VA," said Paul Rieckhoff, CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

A year after he was forced out as P&G's CEO, McDonald, 61, was tapped by Obama this week to overhaul an agency reeling from revelations of widespread treat-

ment delays and falsified records to cover up monthlong waits for appointments.

The White House released a scathing report last week, saying the VA was battling a "corrosive culture" of distrust, lacks resources and was ill-prepared to deal with an influx of new and older veterans with a range of medical and mental health needs. The agency serves nearly 9 million veterans with an annual budget of \$154 billion, one of the largest in the federal government.

"The VA is a large and troubled organization," said Robert Bies, a management professor at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business. "What's really missing is management of the culture. You have to have someone who can manage complex organizations, and (McDonald) has a track record of doing that."

Some veterans groups question McDonald's selection, saying they were not consulted about the choice and were not familiar with McDonald, a West Point graduate who has been out of the mili-



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

Former Procter & Gamble CEO Robert McDonald is President Barack Obama's nominee to be the next Veterans Affairs secretary.

tary for more than 30 years. More importantly, the groups say, McDonald has no direct health care experience — a crucial deficiency as he takes over an agency that treats veterans suffering from a multitude of war-related physical and mental injuries and illnesses.

McDonald starts with another disadvantage in that Obama's term ends in January 2017. He "is going to have to be a very quick study if he is going to make an impact in just 2½ years," Rieckhoff said.

Just how McDonald got the job remains somewhat of a mystery.

Aides say the president was looking for someone who had led a large organization and was familiar with military culture, although it is not clear how McDonald, who supported Republican Mitt Romney in the 2012 presidential election, first came to Obama's attention.

"McDonald's name just kept coming up, at the intersection of having managed a large corporation well and being a vet," said a senior administration official who asked not to be identified to discuss internal White House deliberations. "There was a strong preference for someone who has served."

The VA's acting secretary, Sloan Gibson, attended West Point with McDonald and has been in the job for 40 years. Gibson, who is expected to return to his role as deputy secretary if McDonald is confirmed, called his old friend "an exceptional person — a great leader, a skilled manager, an extraordinarily talented executive and a man with the strongest moral compass."

Graves: Cousin of missing WWII vet worried about DNA testing method

FROM FRONT PAGE

On Jan. 28, 2013, the scientific director of the JPAC Central Identification Laboratory, Thomas Holland, drafted a memorandum that could have closed the case on Kelder and the other nine. In it, Holland wrote, "the existing and available data do not meet the level of scientific certainty required by current DOD disinterment guidance."

Earlier this month, the lab reversed its decision.

"Based upon forensic and historical input ... from JPAC and DPMO, this month the Army concurred with the recommendation to disinter Kelder-Frost remains referred to as 'X-816,' as well as the other unknown remains previously interred in Common Grave 717, given the probability the remains are commingled," Defense Department spokeswoman Navy Cmdr. Amy Derrick-Frost wrote in a statement to Stars and Stripes. "The disinterment decision was based upon a forensic and historical review by JPAC and DOD that included a number of factors, to include the development of new techniques not available in the 1940s and 1950s (e.g. osteometric sorting, DNA analysis, etc.) and the possibility of multiple identifications if all ten Unknowns are disinterred."

"What appears to be a hard-fought victory with JPAC/DPMO, Eakin said he may now have to go back to court to stop JPAC/DPMO because he is worried that the Defense Department's testing methods are outdated and will produce results.

"I feel conflicted trying to stop



Courtesy of Doug Kelder

The telegram that informed the family of Army Pvt. Arthur "Bud" Kelder that he had been taken prisoner by the Japanese in the Philippines during World War II is displayed.

them after working so hard to get them to do it," Eakin said during a telephone interview from his Texas home. "I think we have to get control of the situation here.

According to DPMO's website, its lab uses mitochondrial DNA to test remains. But Eakin said he believes nuclear DNA testing provides the best chance to identify the remains of his cousin.

Ed Huffine, vice president of international development for forensic DNA firm Bode Technology Group Inc., a former AFDD DNA chief, said mitochondrial DNA is less precise than nuclear DNA and is best used to support a presumptive identification.

Nuclear DNA provides a definitive ID and can stand on its own, but it's also a far more difficult test, Huffine said.

Inexperienced analysts often have a hard time getting a complete DNA profile from a sample due to environmental factors, which could include the acidity of the soil or remains being buried with metal objects. It takes about a year and more than 100 tests for

an analyst to learn how to listen to a sample and set their extraction parameters properly, he said.

If analysts aren't careful, a sample will come back as having no available DNA, he said.

"It's almost an art to get nuclear DNA from skeletal remains," Huffine said.

Huffine said that the FBI uses nuclear DNA testing to identify the remains of missing persons. He wasn't sure why the Defense Department didn't as well.

Journey continues

Derrick-Frost, the DOD spokeswoman, said planning for the disinterment is underway and a timeline is still being worked out.

Eakin said the DOD has denied families' request to travel to the Philippines and accompany the remains to JPAC/DPMO's lab in Hawaii.

DPMO declined to be interviewed for this story.

For Eakin, the odyssey to bring Kelder home started in 2009 when he began pouring over declassified records pertaining to the



Courtesy of John Eakin

A photo of "Bud" Kelder ran with an article about his disappearance.

14 unknowns from grave 717, he said. He traced their journey from Luzon to Manila. Four of the individuals were identified using prisoner-maintained burial records, identification tags and military dental records.

Kelder's file indicated that the Army knew he was one of the 10 remaining unknowns.

Eakin then contacted his family members and discovered that Kelder had gold inlays in his teeth, courtesy of his dentist brother. Two of the 10 unknowns had dental patterns that matched Kelder, yet only one had gold inlays. Those remains, designated Manila #2 X-816, were buried beneath the white cross in grave A-12-195.

Yet, the DOD "denied the remains were Bud," Eakin said.

Johnie Webb, JPAC's deputy to the commander for external relations and legislative affairs, verbally denied Eakin's request for disinterment saying there was no evidence to support continued investigation.

But Eakin fought on. His conclusions were backed by two forensic dentists, both of whom have consulted with JPAC in the past.

In 2012, Eakin sued the American Battle Monuments Commission and Defense Department to have the remains disinterred for identification.

The case has been working its way through the courts, and Eakin said he believes a judge was about to compel the U.S. government to produce the remains for testing.

Eakin said his family was moved by the call from the Army's Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center saying the disinterment would take place.

However, he said the exhumation looks like a ploy to gain control of the remains so they can be brought back to Hawaii where JPAC can do the testing without scrutiny on their own terms, on their clock. Eakin fears that could lead to a wait of many years or worse yet, a botched DNA test.

"I just want to ensure it's done properly," he said. "I just want my cousin's remains returned."

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MILITARY



MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Col. James E. Saenz, left, the outgoing commander of U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, and his replacement, Col. Mark A. Colbrook, flank Kathleen Marin, Regional Director Installation Management Command-Europe, during the Wednesday change of command ceremony.

New leadership at USAG Bavaria

From staff reports

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — Col. Mark A. Colbrook replaced Col. James E. Saenz as commander of U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria during a change of command ceremony held at Grafenwöhr on Wednesday.

Colbrook takes command of a military community that has changed much under Saenz's leadership. Gone are the individual commands of Garmisch and

Hohenfels, both of which were consolidated under the USAG Bavaria banner during Saenz's 30-month tenure.

Colbrook, a graduate of West Point, comes to Bavaria after working as chief of unmanned aircraft systems in the Army Chief of Staff's office.

Saenz will move on to become the chief of Strategic Initiatives Group for the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

New commander for Marines in Europe, on East Coast named

By BROCK VERGAKIS
The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — A new leader took control of Marines in Europe and on the East Coast of the United States following a change of command in Virginia on Tuesday.

Lt. Gen. Robert B. Neller became the commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe during a ceremony at a parade field at Naval Station Norfolk.

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command is responsible for training and providing Marines to combatant commanders around the world.

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe is based in Stuttgart, Germany, and serves as the Marine component to U.S. European Command.

About 119 Marines are stationed at the command's headquarters in Germany.

Neller will be based in Norfolk — where his counterpart in the Navy is headquartered — and is

“You're here for a reason. No good deed shall go unpunished.”

Gen. James Amos
commandant of the Marine Corps

directly responsible for between 50,000 about 58,000 Marines, depending upon the military exercise and Reserve manpower in use. Most of those forces are based in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Gen. James Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, said that while Neller is responsible for about 30 percent of all active-duty Marines, his impact will be felt well beyond that because the Marines under his command can be sent to Afghanistan or the Pacific, among other places not under his command.

Neller is originally from East Lansing, Mich., and most recently served as commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command. He had held that post since

2012 and was lauded by Amos for the relationship he built with the Navy's 5th Fleet commander, who was his counterpart in Central Command, and allies in the region.

“You're here for a reason. No good deed shall go unpunished,” Amos joked. “You've become a man that can shoulder a heavy burden and we have a lot of heavy lifting left to do here.”

Neller planned to address the Marine community on Wednesday.

Neller takes over from Lt. Gen. Richard T. Tryon, who is retiring after 44 years of service, including one year as the commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe.

Navy plans to restore funds for USS George Washington

By HUGH LESSIG
(Newport News, Va.) Daily Press

The Navy is in the process of restoring funds to refuel and overhaul the aircraft carrier USS George Washington, a critical job for Newport News Shipbuilding, a source confirmed Tuesday.

The funds could be awarded to the shipyard within weeks, said a Navy official who was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

The news, first reported by Defense News, was hailed by Virginia senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine in a joint news release Tuesday.

The fate of the Washington was thrown into doubt when the Navy said it would move to decommission the ship, not refuel

it, if sequestration-level budget cuts returned in 2016. That would have reduced the U.S. carrier fleet from 11 to 10.

That sparked bipartisan opposition in Congress.

Last month, both the full House of Representatives and the Senate Armed Services Committee approved funding for the refueling. The House version of the National Defense Authorization Act set aside \$483 million. In the Senate, Kaine's amendments set aside up to \$696 million. The full Senate must still vote on that measure, which is expected later this month.

Warner and Kaine said Tuesday's developments indicate the Navy will fund an 11-carrier fleet.

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MILITARY



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Afghan National Army soldiers prepare to remove a destroyed military bus at the site of a suicide attack that killed eight and wounded 13 in Kabul on Wednesday.

Kabul suicide bombing kills 8

By **AMIR SHAH**
The Associated Press

KABUL — A suicide bomber attacked an air force bus in Afghanistan's capital early Wednesday, killing eight military personnel and wounding another 13, security officials said.

The Defense Ministry confirmed the number of casualties in a statement updating a previous toll. Army Gen. Kadamshah Shahim said the bomber was stopped before he could enter the bus, likely limiting the number of casualties.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, with a spokesman for the insurgents, Zabihullah Mujahid, confirming that the air force bus was the target.

The attack came as the country struggles through its first democratic transition of power, with one of the candidates in last month's presidential runoff alleging fraud. Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister and one of two candidates vying to succeed President Hamid Karzai, has warned he will boycott the results of the June 14 balloting.

Abdullah, who won the first round on April 5 by a wide mar-

gin, says supporters of his opponent, former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani, stuffed ballot boxes and tried to rig the vote. According to the official timeta-

ble, initial results are due Wednesday and final results are due on July 22, with the inauguration of the new president scheduled for Aug. 2.

US: Suspect oversaw action at scene of Benghazi attack

By **PETE YOST**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the days before the Benghazi attacks, the Libyan militant now in U.S. custody voiced concern and opposition to the presence of an American compound in Benghazi, the government said Tuesday in a court filing.

Ahmed Abu Khattala was motivated to participate in the violence by his extremist ideology, according to a court filing by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

On Wednesday, Khattala was to appear at a detention hearing before Magistrate Judge Deborah Robinson in U.S. District Court.

In court papers, prosecutors spelled out why Khattala should remain in detention.

After U.S. personnel evacuated the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, Khattala entered the compound and "supervised the exploitation from material at the scene," the government said.

Khattala then returned to a camp in Benghazi controlled by Ansar al-Shariah, where a large armed group began assembling for an attack on the compound's annex, according to the court papers.

The State Department has des-

igned Ansar al-Shariah as a foreign terrorist organization.

Khattala, the court papers added, is a commander of Abu Obeida Jannah Brigade, an extremist group that was absorbed into Ansar al-Sharia after the recent Libyan revolution.

Ansar al-Shariah is an Islamic extremist militia in Libya that holds anti-Western views and advocates the establishment of Shariah law in Libya.

Fires that were set during the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi led to the deaths of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and Information Management Officer Sean Patrick Smith.

Remaining State Department personnel were able to escape to a nearby U.S. facility known as the annex. It also came under attack, and a precision mortar barrage resulted in the deaths of security officers Tyrone Snowden Woods and Glen Anthony Doherty.

Khattala is the first person to be prosecuted in the attack. His expected trial will take place alongside ongoing congressional and Justice Department investigations into the attack and the Obama administration's response to it shortly before the 2012 elections.

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Marine lieutenant colonel dies at NC camp

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — A U.S. Marine lieutenant colonel who was two days away from assuming command of a school at Camp Johnson died after collapsing during a physical fitness test.

A statement from Camp Lejeune said Lt. Col. Andrew P. Reed, 39, died Friday during the run portion of the semi-annual fitness test. The cause of Reed's death is under investigation.

Reed was scheduled to assume command on Monday of Logistics Operations School at Camp Johnson.

From The Associated Press

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NATION

Privacy panel endorses NSA Internet spying

By **KEN DILANIAN**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan privacy board on Wednesday unanimously adopted its report that endorses some of the National Security Agency's Internet surveillance programs.

The programs provoked worldwide controversy when they were revealed last year by news organizations after leaks from former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, whose members were appointed by President Barack Obama, concluded in a lengthy report that the NSA's tar-

geted collection of Internet data within the United States passes constitutional muster and employs "reasonable" safeguards designed to protect the rights of Americans.

David Medine, a former government privacy lawyer who chairs the board, said NSA's Internet surveillance was found to have been "valuable and effective for protecting the national security and producing foreign intelligence information."

Privacy and civil liberties activists expressed disappointment with the board's conclusions.

"This is a weak report that fails to fully grasp the civil liberties and human rights implications of per-

mitting the government sweeping access to the communications of innocent people," said Jameel Jaffer, deputy legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union.

The report stands in contrast to the board's last action, when it argued in January that the NSA's collection of domestic calling records "lacked a viable legal foundation" and should be shut down.

At issue were programs carried out under a 2008 provision of the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act known as Section 702. The NSA uses court orders and taps on fiber optic lines to target the data of foreigners living abroad when their emails, web chats, text messages and other

communications traverse U.S. telecommunications systems.

Section 702 includes the so-called PRISM program, under which the NSA collects foreign intelligence from Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Apple and nearly every other major American technology company.

U.S. intelligence officials and members of Congress have agreed that Section 702 has been responsible for disrupting a series of terrorist plots and achieving other insights.

The board said the programs have "led the government to identify previously unknown individuals who are involved in international terrorism, and it has

played a key role in discovering and disrupting specific terrorist plots aimed at the United States and other countries."

Because worldwide Internet communications are intermingled on fiber optic lines and in cyberspace, known as the cloud, the collection inevitably sweeps in the communications of Americans with no connection to terrorism or foreign intelligence. Activists have expressed concern that a secret intelligence agency is obtaining private American communications without individual warrants. Some have questioned how such a program could be legal under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution.



JIM TELLER, THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS-JOURNAL/AP

People deal with the high surf and currents generated by Tropical Storm Arthur off Daytona Beach on Tuesday.

Tropical storm threatens NC coast

By **BRUCE SMITH**
The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Along much of the East Coast, hotel owners, tourism officials and would-be vacationers kept a watchful eye on forecasts Wednesday as Tropical Storm Arthur churned off Florida, threatening Fourth of July plans for thousands of people.

A tropical storm warning was issued for parts of North Carolina as the first named storm of the season was expected to strengthen to a hurricane and skim the Outer Banks, a string of narrow barrier islands prone to flooding but popular for beachgoers, as a Category 1 hurricane Friday.

Wednesday's warning stretched across the entire North Carolina coast, from Little River Inlet near South Carolina north to the Virginia border.

A tropical storm watch for Flor-

ida's east coast was canceled.

The worst of the storm should occur at Cape Hatteras, N.C., about dawn Friday, with 3 to 5 inches of rain and sustained winds up to 85 mph, said Tony Saavedra, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service. The storm should move through quickly and be off the coast of New England later in the day, perhaps making landfall in Canada's maritime provinces as a tropical storm, he said.

The motel Shutters on the Banks in Kill Devil Hills, N.C., was completely booked for the holiday weekend, general manager John Zeller said Tuesday, but he was considering waiving cancellation fees if the storm continued to track toward the area.

"We have received some cancellations but not too many," he said. "Basically we are telling people to kind of wait and see what happens. ... I think everybody is kind of watching the weather."

Late Wednesday morning, Arthur was about 105 miles east-northeast of Cape Canaveral, Fla., and about 260 miles south-southeast of Charleston, S.C. It was moving north about 7 mph (with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph).

About an hour north of Cape Canaveral, the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort's holiday reservations were unaffected by the storm, general manager Tom Manno said.

"In fact we're sold out right through Sunday," he said. "So we haven't experienced any cancellations at all."

But some precautions were taken at the hotel.

"We've gone through all the emergency procedures, the staff is confident, and everything is in place," Manno said. "Right now the weather is good, the winds are pretty calm, and we're hoping it will remain that way."

Justices often at odds agree on privacy issue

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court justices found more common ground than usual this year, and nowhere was their unanimity more surprising than in a ruling that police must get a judge's approval before searching the cellphones of people they've arrested.

The term that just ended also had its share of 5-4 decisions with the familiar conservative-liberal split, including Monday's ruling on religion, birth control and the health care law.

But the 9-0 cellphone decision last week may be the most consequential of the justices' 67 rulings this term. It signaled a high degree of skepticism about the government's authority, without any need to satisfy an impartial judge, to sweep up vast quantities of information that individuals store on computers and cellphones, as well as other records that companies keep online.

The scope of that ruling will await future cases, including possible challenges to NSA's surveillance and collection of massive amounts of Americans' telephone records. But the justices indicated

that constitutional privacy protections, embodied in the Fourth Amendment, will apply strongly to cases involving computers and digital storage, said Elizabeth Wydra, the liberal Constitutional Accountability Center's chief counsel.

Chief Justice John Roberts' opinion for the court "was a broad and sweeping ruling in favor of privacy," Wydra said.

The cellphone case was one of 42 in which the court was unanimous about the outcome, either 9-0 or 8-0 in cases where a justice sat out. That level of consensus is far higher than in recent terms.

The cases include high-profile disputes in which the administration could not attract a vote for its preferred result, even from the two justices appointed by President Barack Obama: Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor. The court struck down Obama's recess appointments to the National Labor Relations Board, the 35-foot buffer zone around Massachusetts abortion clinics and the criminal conviction under a chemical weapons treaty of a woman who tried to poison her husband's lover.

2 critically injured after food truck explodes

PHILADELPHIA — A propane tank on a food truck in Philadelphia exploded into a fireball, critically injuring a mother and daughter and sending at least nine others to the hospital, police said.

The truck exploded Tuesday evening outside an auto body shop in the city's Feltonville neighborhood.

Philadelphia Police Chief Inspector Scott Small said the mother and daughter worked on the food truck and that they were in critical condition with burns across a substantial portion of

their bodies. Two others were in the hospital with minor injuries and about seven more people were treated and released.

Surveillance video from two businesses near the La Parrillada Chapina food truck captured the explosion, followed by a huge fireball that engulfed the truck and crossed to the other side of the street, Small said.

He said the 4-foot propane tank that exploded, one of two that fuels the food truck, was found about 150 feet away in a residential backyard.

"We thought something fell over. Then all of a sudden we heard screams," neighbor Nicole Ellis told WCAU-TV.

From The Associated Press

WORLD

Chechen is rising star in ISIL in Syria

By BASSEM MROUE
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — A young, red-bearded ethnic Chechen has rapidly become one of the most prominent commanders in the militant group that has overrun swaths of Iraq and Syria, illustrating the international nature of the movement.

Omar al-Shishani, one of hundreds of Chechens who have been among the toughest jihadi fighters in Syria, has emerged as the face of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, appearing frequently in its online videos — in contrast to the group's Iraqi leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who remains deep in hiding and has hardly ever been photographed.

In a video released by the group over the weekend, al-Shishani is shown standing next to the group's spokesman among a group of fighters as they declare the elimination of the border between Iraq and Syria. The video was released just hours before the extremist group announced the creation of a caliphate — or Islamic state — in the areas it controls.

"Our aim is clear and everyone knows why we are fighting. Our path is toward the caliphate," al-Shishani, 28, declares.

"We will bring back the caliphate, and if God does not make it our fate to restore the caliphate, then we ask him to grant us martyrdom." The video is consistent with other Associated Press reporting on al-Shishani.

Al-Shishani has been the group's military commander in Syria, leading it on an offensive to take over a broad stretch of territory leading to the Iraqi border. But he may have risen to become the group's overall military chief, a post that has been vacant after the Iraqi militant who once held it — known as Abu Abdul-Rahman al-Bilawi al-Anbari — was killed in the Iraqi city of Mosul in early June. The video identified al-Shishani as "the military commander" without specifying its Syria branch, suggesting he had been elevated to overall commander, though the group has not formally announced such a promotion.

As the militant group's operations in Iraq and Syria grow "more and more interdependent by the day, it is more than possible that someone like (al-Shishani) could assume overall military leadership," said Charles Lister, visiting fellow with the Brookings Doha Center.

The extremist group began as al-Qaida's branch in Iraq, and many of its top leaders are Iraqi. After it intervened in Syria's civil war last year, it drew hundreds of foreign fighters into its operations in Syria. Now with victories on the two sides of the border, the two branches are swapping fighters, equipment and weapons to an even greater extent than before, becoming a more integrated organization. Its declaration of the caliphate — aspiring to be a state for all



Omar al-Shishani, surrounded by other members of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, declares the elimination of the border between Iraq and Syria in this image from a video posted on a social media account frequently used by the militant group.

Syrian weapons on US ship

GIOIA TAURO, Italy — Cargo containers carrying hundreds of tons of Syrian chemical weapons were loaded onto a U.S. cargo ship Wednesday for destruction at sea, one of the final phases of the international effort to rid Syria of its chemical weapons stockpile.

The chemicals had crossed the Mediterranean aboard the Danish ship Ark Futura, which arrived in the southern Italian port of Gioia Tauro on Wednesday.

By late afternoon, about half of the 78 containers had been transferred, with

Muslims — could mean an even greater internationalization of its ranks.

Alexei Malashenko, an expert with the Carnegie Endowment's Moscow office, said ethnicity is not a major factor in jihadi movements, only dedication to jihad.

Hong Kong police arrest 511 after democracy rally

The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong police arrested more than 500 people who refused to leave a street in the city's financial district on Wednesday, a day after tens of thousands of people joined a massive march to demand democracy that is free from China's interference.

The march has become an annual affair held on the anniversary of the day China took over Hong Kong from Britain on July 1, 1997, with the promise to give the city a

high degree of autonomy for 50 years. There is growing unease among its residents — especially the youth — that the Western-style civil liberties they've known all their lives are being eroded as Beijing has increasingly tried to impose its authority over the free-wheeling capitalist enclave.

The fears are only going to be heightened following the pre-dawn crackdown by the Hong Kong police, who normally do not have an antagonistic relationship with the people, unlike the security forces

in a flatbed truck that then drove into the cargo hold of the U.S. cargo vessel MV Cape Ray.

Italy's environment minister, Gian Luca Galletti, proclaimed the mission a proud moment for Italy, tweeting that the country was contributing to international security in a "transparent and environmentally secure operation."

Local residents complained that they were kept in the dark about what would happen and what chemicals were involved.

From The Associated Press

had movements, only dedication to jihad. Al-Shishani "is a fanatic of Islam with war experience, and he obviously has had a strong track record (among fellow fighters)," he said.

in mainland China.

Police said 511 people were arrested for unlawful assembly in the Central business district and preventing police from carrying out their duties. After warnings failed to dislodge them, the police moved in to remove the protesters, who lay down on the street with arms locked, taking them away one by one. The protesters had vowed to stay until 8 a.m., just before the height of rush hour begins, but the police started moving in to evict them about 3 a.m.

4 Ukrainian troops die in attacks on rebels

By DAVID McHUGH
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Four Ukrainian troops were killed as forces carried out more than 100 attacks on rebel positions and forced pro-Russia separatists out of three eastern villages, a military official said Wednesday.

The foreign ministers from Germany, France, Ukraine and Russia were to meet later Wednesday in Berlin to keep searching for a way to de-escalate the conflict that has taken more than 400 lives since April.

Fighting in eastern Ukraine has increased since a much-violated 10-day cease-fire expired Monday. President Petro Poroshenko said conditions for further peace talks had not been met as rebels refused to disarm or hand back seized border posts.

National Security and Defense Council spokesman Andriy Lysenko said three military troops died in rebel attacks on government vehicles and checkpoints and 10 were wounded. The federal border guards said one guardsman was killed when the Novozovsk crossing point came under attack by rebels with mortars in the Donetsk region.

Donetsk is one of two eastern regions that have declared independence from the government in Kiev.

Border posts have become a key issue, since Ukraine and the United States say military equipment and reinforcements are flowing across the border from Russia, something Russia denies.

Ukraine says it recaptured a key border post Tuesday at Dovzhanskiy, which rebels had mined with explosives. That crossing is one of three that Poroshenko had unsuccessfully demanded that the rebels return.

In Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she "cannot rule out that we will have to go further" in imposing sanctions on Russia.

The European Union and the United States have already imposed targeted sanctions mostly hitting individual officials in Russia and have held off on more costly sanctions on entire industries.

"We will not let up ... in seeking diplomatic solutions to the conflict, but we are still far from where we would like to be," she said after meeting with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

“We will not let up ... in seeking diplomatic solutions to the conflict, but we are still far from where we would like to be.”

Anders Fogh Rasmussen
NATO secretary general

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Auto sales make surprise leap in June

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
The Associated Press

TROIT — U.S. auto sales grew at the fastest pace in eight years in June, surprising the industry and setting it up for a strong second half of the year.

Sales rose 1.2 percent over last June to 1.4 million cars and trucks, according to Autodata Corp. GM, Toyota, Hyundai and Nissan all saw increases over last June. Honda sales were flat, while sales at Ford and Volkswagen were down.

June's annualized sales rate — which estimates annual sales if they stayed at the same pace every month — was 16.98 million. That was the fastest pace since July 2006 and higher even than in May, which also surprised the industry with its strength.

Analysts at an auto analyst for the car-buying site Cars.com, said buyers are out because of low interest rates, a strong stock market — which improves confi-

dence — and great new vehicles. An easing in lending standards is also adding more potential buyers to the market.

"We're getting set up on a very good footing for the second half of the year," Toprak said. "The last two months have exceeded expectations, which tells us that the consumer demand is very strong."

Toprak said he may increase his annual sales forecast from 16.1 million vehicles to 16.3 million based on May and June sales. That compares with 15.6 million vehicles sold in the U.S. last year.

May sales were helped by five sunny weekends and the Memorial Day holiday, which got June off to a slow start. But Ford's U.S. sales chief, John Felice, said sales picked up at the end of last month as automakers started promoting Independence Day sales.

Analysts saw plenty to like in June. Forecasting firm LMC Automotive said automakers are carefully balancing production

with demand, which has helped them maintain profits and cut back on big incentives that can eventually hurt resale values.

TrueCar estimated incentive spending rose 1.6 percent in June to an average of \$2,735 per vehicle. Both GM and Nissan lowered incentives by 12 percent from last June.

While incentives may be lower, buyers are taking advantage of good lease offers and low interest rates. The average interest rate for a 60-month new car loan is 3.18 percent. Three years ago, that was closer to 5.5 percent, according to Bankrate.com.

GM's sales were up 1 percent over last June despite a continuing parade of recalls. GM's total safety recalls for the year reached 29 million vehicles on Monday, when the automaker announced six new recalls of 8.4 million cars. Two of those recalls were for ignition switch problems, the same issue that began the company's recall crisis in February.

Kelley Blue Book analyst Alec Gutierrez said GM is benefiting from its new lineup of SUVs, which hit the market at a time when buyers are gravitating toward bigger vehicles. Sales of the Chevrolet Tahoe large SUV nearly doubled to more than 11,000, while sales of the GMC Yukon more than doubled to 3,946. Cadillac Escalade sales were up 57 percent.

Toyota's sales rose 3 percent as the Camry and Corolla sedans both posted double-digit gains.

MARKET WATCH	
July 1, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	129.47
S&P 500	16,956.07
Nasdaq composite	50.47
DAX	4,456.65
Standard & Poor's 500	13.09
FTSE 100	1,973.32
Russell 2000	12.99
Hang Seng	1,205.95

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 3)	\$1,4019
Dollar buys (July 3)	€0.7133
British pound (July 3)	\$1.76
Japanese yen (July 3)	¥99.00
South Korean won (July 3)	₩985.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.7159
Canada (Dollar)	1.0663
China (Yuan)	6.2105
Denmark (Krone)	6.4601
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.3658/\$1.7322
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7593
Hungary (Forint)	228.48
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4828
Japan (Yen)	101.76
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2822
Norway (Krone)	6.1821
Philippines (Peso)	43.66
Poland (Zloty)	3.04
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2473
South Korea (Won)	1,009.60
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8887
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.39
Turkey (Lira)	1.3111

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-local currency exchange rates (i.e., non-U.S. dollars), contact your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate (July 3)	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	3.40

WEATHER OUTLOOK

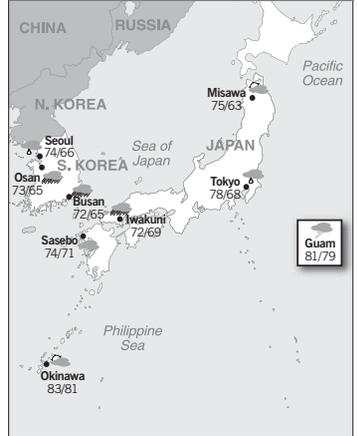
THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Thursday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	
Arlene, Texas	78	51	Cir	Charlotte, N.C.	90	68	Cldy	Fort Smith	86	64	Pcldy	Los Angeles	81	65	Pcldy	
Arlene, Texas	93	70	Cldy	Chattanooga	87	62	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	72	52	Pcldy	Louisville	78	60	Pcldy	
Akron, Ohio	73	53	Cldy	Cincinnati	85	57	Pcldy	Fresno	102	69	Cir	Lubbock	87	66	Cldy	
Albany, N.Y.	85	65	Rain	Chicago	73	52	Cir	Goodland	83	63	Pcldy	Madison	75	63	Pcldy	
Albuquerque	88	67	Pcldy	Cleveland	73	55	Cldy	Grand Junction	95	66	Pcldy	Madison	75	63	Pcldy	
Allentown, Pa.	85	64	Cldy	Colorado Springs	87	57	Pcldy	Green Bay	74	52	Cir	Medford	91	58	Cir	
Anchorage	72	52	Pcldy	Columbia, S.C.	96	72	Cldy	Green Bay	74	52	Cir	Memphis	83	63	Cldy	
Ashville	82	60	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	94	68	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	86	67	Rain	Midland-Odessa	90	78	Cldy	
Atlanta	90	66	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	77	54	Cldy	Harrisburg	87	67	Rain	Midvale	89	69	Pcldy	
Austin	82	68	Rain	Concord, N.H.	84	67	Rain	Harrisburg	87	67	Rain	Milwaukee	75	58	Cir	
Baltimore	88	71	Pcldy	Corpus Christi	94	75	Pcldy	Helena	91	65	Pcldy	Mpls-St Paul	75	58	Cir	
Baton Rouge	93	72	Cldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	93	73	Cldy	Honolulu	89	75	Cir	Mobile	96	70	Pcldy	
Billings	82	63	Pcldy	Dayton	74	53	Cldy	Houston	95	77	Cldy	Montgomery	94	66	Cir	
Birmingham	87	64	Cir	Daytona Beach	95	77	Cldy	Huntsville	85	60	Cir	Nashville	82	60	Cir	
Bismark	80	59	Rain	Des Moines	90	62	Pcldy	Indianapolis	74	56	Pcldy	New Orleans	82	76	Cir	
Boise	97	64	Cir	Des Moines	75	56	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	91	64	Pcldy	New York City	88	70	Rain	
Boston	80	59	Rain	Detroit	74	56	Cldy	Jacksonville	75	57	Cldy	Rain	Salem, Ore.	76	53	Cir
Bridgeport	86	69	Rain	El Paso	71	52	Cir	Janeau	64	52	Pcldy	San Antonio	100	68	Pcldy	
Brownsville	92	75	Cir	El Paso	81	59	Cir	Key West	91	82	Pcldy	San Diego	79	61	Cir	
Buffalo	76	62	Rain	El Paso	78	55	Cldy	Key West	91	82	Pcldy	San Francisco	89	66	Cir	
Burlington, Vt.	82	62	Rain	Evansville	76	58	Pcldy	Kingville	86	60	Pcldy	San Jose	80	57	Cir	
Camden, Maine	84	63	Rain	Expone	74	54	Cldy	Lake Charles	93	73	Cldy	San Jose	80	57	Cir	
Casper	91	76	Cir	Fairbanks	74	54	Cldy	Lansing	72	51	Pcldy	Santa Fe	84	58	Pcldy	
Charleston, S.C.	90	56	Cir	Fargo	76	55	Cir	Lexington	79	58	Pcldy	St Louis	69	40	Cir	
Charleston, W.Va.	83	58	Cldy	Flagstaff	84	52	Cldy	Lincoln	77	51	Cir	St Louis	69	40	Cir	
				Flint	71	48	Pcldy	Little Rock	83	63	Pcldy	Seattle	72	55	Pcldy	

National temperature extremes
Hi: Tue., 125, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Tue., 28, West Yellowstone, Mont.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Beachgoers unfazed by great white shark surge

NJ SHIP BOTTOM — Despite a surge in the number of great white shark population and several recent sightings off the Jersey shore, beachgoers still plan to hit the beach for the Fourth of July weekend.

A study by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists finds that numbers of the great white, immortalized in the film "Jaws," are surging along the East Coast.

But most beachgoers say that won't keep them out of the water. Skimboarder Logan Sheehan, of Manahawkin, said most shark attacks are accidental and happen farther offshore than where he boards. But the federal report found exactly the opposite — that great whites are more common along the coast than offshore.

People encounter them mostly between Massachusetts and New Jersey during the summer, and off Florida in the winter, the report said.

"Sharks don't bother me," Sheehan said. "They don't rely like people; when they do bite, they'll usually spit it back out. They don't take the whole body."

Police: Suspect made getaway in kayak

MN AUSTIN — Police used a boat to catch a burglary suspect who made his getaway in a kayak in southern Minnesota.

The 31-year-old man from Austin was arrested Sunday as he tried to kayak away from a restaurant with allegedly stolen items.

Police said an employee was giving a tour of the restaurant, which wasn't open at the time, and interrupted a burglary.

Officers found three people in kayaks on the Cedar River and got one to talk to them. That information led police to believe the second man was involved in the burglary.

Police got a fire department boat and were able to catch the kayaker. Authorities recovered cleaning supplies and lighters believed to have been taken from the restaurant.

Police captain files a slander lawsuit

CA LOS ANGELES — A lawsuit filed by a Los Angeles police captain accuses a veteran detective of damaging her reputation by depicting her as a prostitute during a training lecture he gave to more than two dozen officers.

The Los Angeles Times reported the civil complaint filed last week by Capt. Lillian Carranza accuses Detective Frank Lyga of slander, intentional infliction of emotional distress and invasion of privacy.

According to the complaint, Lyga described Carranza as a "very cute little Hispanic lady" who had been "swapped around a bunch of times."

Lyga is the subject of an internal investigation for remarks he made during the training class,

THE CENSUS

360

The number of measles cases in an outbreak in Ohio, the largest outbreak in the nation in more than two decades. The outbreak started after travelers from Ohio's Amish country visited the Philippines, where they contracted the disease. Once they returned home the measles spread, thanks to a lower rate of vaccination among the Amish and the difficulty public health authorities had in getting the word out to largely rural communities where phones are few and the Internet is nonexistent. Health officials believe the outbreak is slowing in Ohio thanks to vaccination clinics and door-to-door visits by public health nurses.



JERILKE BENNETT, THE COLORADO SPRINGS (COLO.) GAZETTE/AP

Not-so-warm welcome

The class of 2018 was given the usual welcome by upperclass cadres during a day of in-processing at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., on June 26. Cadet Daniel Colton yells at a "doodle," or first-year cadet, before he goes up through the tunnel to the Academy. The new cadets will soon go to Basic Cadet Training.

which were recorded by another officer. His attorney told the Times his client acknowledges it was his voice on the recording.

Prosthetic leg found on beach returned

WA KINGSTON — A woman who found a prosthetic leg on a Washington state beach has returned it to its owner.

Hannah Listle posted information on Facebook about the prosthesis she found while looking for shells Sunday at Point No Point beach.

KOMO reported Megan Smith, of Poulsbo, gratefully claimed the leg Monday. She said she and her husband had been swimming Saturday night when she realized the leg was gone.

Ruling goes against boy in 'Pop-Tart case'

MD ANNAPOLIS — A hearing examiner has affirmed the suspension of a Maryland boy who chewed his breakfast pastry into the shape of

a gun. The Washington Post reported that hearing examiner Andrew Nussbaum supported a principal's assertion that the suspension was based on a history of problems, not the pastry episode some refer to as "the Pop-Tart case."

The incident took place last year when the Anne Arundel County boy was 7 years old.

The case happened during a time of increased sensitivity to guns after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. The boy's punishment was one of several Washington-area suspensions involving imaginary or toy guns.

New museum explores death, all things morbid

NY NEW YORK — A new museum opening in New York City this weekend promises a fascinating journey into the dark side.

The Morbid Anatomy Museum opens Saturday in Gowanus, Brooklyn.

The ribbon-cutting will include a "spirit photo booth" and tra-

ditional mourning food from a cookbook titled "Death Warmed Over."

Creative director Joanna Ebensten told The New York Times the museum's mission is serious. It grew out of Ebensten's private collection of more than 2,000 books on death rituals, the human body and esoterica.

The three-story museum is in a former nightclub. Highlights at the opening exhibition, "The Art of Mourning," include a brooch made from human teeth. There's also a 1850s shadowbox containing a Madonna surrounded by a memorial wreath made of locks of a deceased loved one.

Judge involved in fracas returns to the bench

FL VIERA — A central Florida judge accused of punching an assistant public defender during an altercation outside the courtroom has issued a public apology as he prepares to return to the bench after a leave of absence.

Florida Today reported that Brevard County Judge John C.

Murphy wrote a letter of apology to the county's residents Sunday. He wrote that his actions on June 2 may have "tarnished the reputation of the entire judiciary."

Following the incident with Andrew Weinstock, Murphy took a paid leave of absence and received anger management counseling.

State apologizes for Cherokees' treatment

OK TULSA — Tennessee lawmakers have apologized to the Cherokee Nation for actions taken by President Andrew Jackson that forced up to 16,000 Cherokees off Tennessee lands 175 years ago.

Tennessee lawmakers passed a resolution earlier this year and read it at an event Friday to commemorate the anniversary of the Trail of Tears.

Under the resolution, the Tennessee assembly acknowledged the role played by the state that led to Cherokees' homes and lands being confiscated before being rounded up and removed to Indian Territory beginning in 1838.

From wire reports

FACES

Groban shows he's more than a big voice

By ALICIA RANCLIO
The Associated Press

Josh Groban admits he was hesitant to show that he was more than a guy with a big voice who could perform sweeping ballads.

"For so much of my career I think I was a little bit protective of the brand or the image of the voice," he said in a recent interview. "And that's half of me. But I think I've been less afraid to let my freak flag fly a little bit — it has waved gloriously in the wind — and it's been fun."

Groban, 33, has shown his quick wit and easygoing personality on social media and as a guest host on "Live With Kelly" before Michael Strahan was named Kelly Ripa's permanent co-host. "I scoffed at Twitter when it first started. I was like, 'Oh god, this is ... not what I do,'" he said. "I was having a high-and-mighty thing about it, and then I started doing it and I realized that I could send a tweet like I send a text, and every time I make my friends laugh and they'd go, 'Man, nobody knows how funny you are,' and I'd go, 'No, no, no, well they couldn't. They couldn't possibly know. I have a billboard of me staring at them from a desert and my new Christmas album is climbing the charts."

"For so much of my career I think I was a little bit protective of the brand or the image of the voice," Josh Groban says. "And that's half of me. But I think I've been less afraid to let my freak flag fly a little bit — it has waved gloriously in the wind — and it's been fun."

ABC

They can't possibly know that I have a funny bone."

Now he realizes "we're not all one thing."

Groban credits late-night TV host Jimmy Kimmel for recognizing his comedic abilities.

"People like Jimmy Kimmel have been unbelievable to me in giving me skits and funny sketches to do when nobody else was giving me couch time because they just assumed with my style of music, I wouldn't have a personality," he said.

Now he's stepping further outside his comfort zone as host of the singing competition series "Rising Star," with Brad Paisley, Ke\$ha and Ludacris.

Groban understands why some people might be hesitant to tune into the show because they feel the market is too saturated with music competitions, but hopes they'll give it a shot.

"I wouldn't have signed on to it if I didn't think that this was gonna be different, that it was gonna be fun and funny and exciting," he said.



Cameron Diaz bares all in latest movie

The Associated Press

Cameron Diaz does something she's never done before in her upcoming movie, "Sex Tape."

She gets naked on camera. It's a first for the 41-year-old actress, who described the experience to Esquire magazine as "just a part of the role."

She says her co-star Jason Segel also gets nude on-screen.

In "Sex Tape," Diaz and Segel play a bored married couple who decide to spice up things by filming a sex tape. After it's accidentally leaked, they try to get it back.

She also has a labor scene in the film. Diaz has been open about not wanting children in real life, saying she never really wanted to be a mother.

The August issue of Esquire goes on sale July 8.



Getty Images

"[I]ust a part of the role." That's how Cameron Diaz describes her first on-screen nude scene in the movie "Sex Tape."



Hewitt joining 'Criminal Minds'

CBS says Jennifer Love Hewitt is joining the cast of "Criminal Minds" this fall.

She will play Kate Callahan, a seasoned undercover agent whose superior work at the FBI has earned her a place in the Behavioral Analysis Unit.

Hewitt is returning to series TV after five seasons starring on CBS' "Ghost Whisperer," which aired from 2005 to 2010. Before that, she was in the ensemble of the Fox drama "Party of Five." Her films include "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and its sequel.

CBS says her "Criminal Minds" character will be introduced in the series' 10th season premiere, set to air Oct. 1 in the U.S. The "Criminal Minds" cast also includes Joe Mantegna, Thomas Gibson, Shemar Moore and A.J. Cook.

From The Associated Press

Publicist: LaBeouf getting treatment for alcoholism

The Associated Press

A publicist says Shia LaBeouf is being treated for alcoholism.

Melissa Kates said Tuesday the 28-year-old actor has not checked into a rehab facility but is receiving voluntary treatment for alcohol addiction.

Kates said in a statement that LaBeouf's recent actions — which include an arrest for disrupting a Broadway play — are symptoms of a larger health problem.

She said he has taken the first of many necessary steps toward recovery.

LaBeouf was charged with disorderly conduct, criminal trespass and harassment during a production of "Cabaret" last week.

The actor was arrested for drunken driving in 2008 after he crashed his pickup truck, injuring his hand and knee.

TV food star's show delayed

The Travel Channel is delaying the new series "Man Finds Food" after its star's on-line war of words.

The channel said Tuesday that Adam Richman's show has been postponed indefinitely, but it didn't explain why. "Man Finds Food" was to debut July 2.

The channel's move came days after the slimmed-down Richman posted his photo on Instagram with the hashtag "thinspiration."

Some who viewed it accused Richman of glorifying negative body images. His response to one was to "grab a razor blade" in a bathtub, an apparent reference to suicide.

In a statement, Richman apologized for what he called "inexcusable remarks."

Richman also starred in "Man v. Food" for the Travel Channel. He showed off his weight loss in a semi-nude photo in this month's British edition of Cosmopolitan.



Richman

Williams back at rehab

Robin Williams is reconnecting with the 12-step program during a brief stay at a Minnesota facility.

A spokeswoman for the 62-year-old actor-comedian says Williams planned the visit as a respite to recharge after more than 18 straight months of work.

Publicist Mara Buxbaum said Williams is "taking the opportunity to fine-tune and focus on his continued commitment, of which he remains extremely proud."

Williams has been open about the challenges of maintaining sobriety. He sought treatment in 2006 when he relapsed and returned to drinking after 20 years.

Writer-director Mazursky dies

Paul Mazursky, the innovative and versatile director who showed the absurdity of modern life in such movies as "Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice" and "An Unmarried Woman," has died. He was 84.

The filmmaker died of pulmonary cardiac arrest Monday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, said Mazursky's spokeswoman Nancy Willens.

As a talented writer, actor, producer and director, Mazursky racked up five Oscar nominations, mostly for writing such films as "Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice" and "Enemies, a Love Story." He also created memorable roles for the likes of Art Carney, Jill Clayburgh and Natalie Wood. Later in life, Mazursky acted in such TV series as "The Sopranos" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and films such as "Carlitto's Way" and "2 Days in the Valley."



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FVAP.gov

★★★★★ *The Great* ★★★★★★
AMERICAN SALUTE

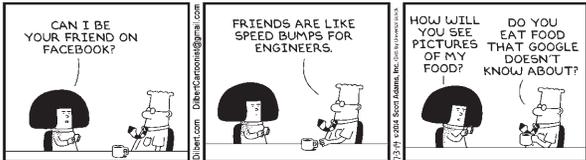


#SALUTE ★ BUDWEISER.COM/SALUTE

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



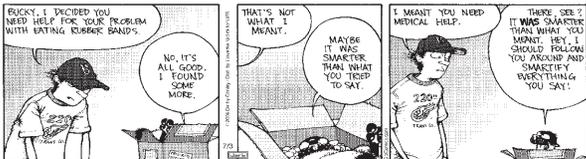
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
15			16				17				
		18			19		20				
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59				60				61			

ACROSS

- 1 Group of seals
- 4 Canned lunchmeat
- 8 Take to the seas
- 12 Shock partner
- 13 New Rochelle college
- 14 Church section
- 15 Obama or Clinton
- 17 Thaw
- 18 Sitcom planet
- 19 Photocopies
- 21 Desolate
- 24 Mil. group
- 25 Sapporo sash
- 26 Corn spike
- 28 Tin star
- 32 Judy's daughter
- 34 Unruly bunch
- 36 Depend (on)
- 37 Yorkshire city

DOWN

- 1 Cushion
- 2 Have bills
- 3 Portray as evil
- 4 Reaping tool
- 5 Spanish preposition
- 6 Have — to grind
- 7 Won at chess
- 8 Tea urn
- 9 Pinnacle
- 10 Capri, e.g.
- 11 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 16 Raw rock
- 20 Cage component
- 21 Lounge
- 22 60-Across' cousin
- 23 Thanksgiving veggie
- 27 Plagiarize
- 29 Raze
- 30 Radiate
- 31 Spud's buds
- 33 Unfavorable
- 35 Feathery neckwear
- 38 Round Table address
- 40 Sanguinary
- 43 West Point newbie
- 45 Illuminated
- 46 Fossil fuel
- 47 Bullets and such
- 48 Hotel employee
- 49 Lily variety
- 53 Fellow
- 54 Overseas agreement?
- 55 Homer's neighbor

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	O	G	E	B	A	N	R	A	G	U
A	D	O	M	E	N	U	A	V	I	S
R	I	O	P	A	T	T	I	P	A	G
M	E	D	A	L	S	A	P			
			R	O	A	R	M	E	T	A
P	A	T	T	Y	P	A	N	D	I	V
A	G	O	S	O	D	A	S	E	O	N
L	E	A	D	P	A	T	T	E	R	N
M	E	D	I	A	R	E	A	L		
			E	B	B	I	F	N	O	T
P	A	T	T	E	R	S	O	N	A	X
O	P	T	E	A	I	D	E	N		
D	E	E	R	S	P	E	D	A	N	D

7-3

CRYPTOQUIP

AQBQFXT MXDA YXDHQWDR
 VXHDHWN DJ YXR JLL DGQHF
 AQBFBMQ MGXFNA VQFQ
 HW X LQTHWQ LQQ THWQ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BALLERINA ANNA HAD POWERFUL BUT OVERWORKED FEET. ONE MIGHT THINK OF THEM AS PAVLOVA'S DOGS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals E

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OPINION

Why Turkey will help Kurds break up Iraq

By MARC CHAMPION
 Bloomberg News

The president of Iraqi Kurdistan, Massoud Barzani, chose to announce plans for a referendum on independence Tuesday — the same day Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan picked to announce his bid to run for president. If that's a coincidence, it's a significant one.

Officials in Erdogan's government have indicated at least twice in recent weeks that they are willing to end Turkey's historical opposition to the creation of an independent Kurdish state. There are several reasons, but the most urgent one is the electoral arithmetic Erdogan faces in next month's vote.

The stakes in the presidential race are especially high this time. Whoever wins Aug. 10 — and it will almost certainly be Erdogan — will become the first Turkish president elected directly rather than by parliament. With the legitimacy of a popular mandate, together with his dominance of the ruling party and the absence of existing laws, Erdogan would be able to turn what has been a ceremonial presidency into a powerful executive position.

This prospect was enough to motivate the two main opposition parties — the secularist Republican People's Party and the Nationalist Movement Party — to put aside their differences to select a joint candidate, historian and diplomat Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu. The third contender, Selahattin Demirtas, is from Turkey's Kurdish minority, which accounts for about 20 percent of the population.

May's local elections were a dry run for the presidential race, in that both Erdogan and his opponents turned the polls into a referendum on him. Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party won 43 percent of the vote, a good result but not the majority he needs to win the presidency in the first round. The two main opposition parties together won 44 percent.

The even split between Erdogan and the main opposition means that Turkey's



UMIT BERTAS/AP

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan salutes his ruling party members before he announces he is running for president in Ankara, Turkey, on Tuesday.

Kurds will be the kingmakers. For them, any concern over Erdogan's authoritarian bent pales next to securing an independent Kurdish state in Iraq and a better deal for themselves in Turkey. Erdogan is letting them know he is the man to deliver both.

Just days before Erdogan announced his presidential bid, the government submitted to parliament a bill that would allow Kurdish militants living in camps to return to society as civilians without fear of prosecution, potentially ending 30 years of armed conflict. The law would also grant immunity to Turks who, as part of the peace process, speak to convicted terrorist Abdullah Odman, the jailed Kurdish leader.

Equally important, Huseyin Celik, a top Erdogan official, on Sunday repeated his earlier statement that the Kurds in northern Iraq should be allowed to determine their own status. Celik, of course, is not Erdogan, and encouraging Iraq's dissolution runs counter to U.S. policy, with which Turkey professes to agree. Still, the door for Iraq's Kurds to declare independence without being punished by Turkey — allowing them to go on exporting oil and receiving billions of dollars in investments — was opened wide.

For decades, the very idea of a Kurdish state was nearalgebra for Turkish leaders. They feared it would trigger an all-out war for secession along the predominantly Kurdish-populated border areas with Iraq, Iran and Syria. However, time, the dispersal of Kurds throughout the country, and Iraqi Kurdistan's growing economic dependence on Turkey have dissipated resistance in Ankara. Barzani could also prove a useful ally for Erdogan in his talks with Ocalan and the militant Kurdish Workers' Party.

A coincidence of timing has a lot to do with it, too. Just at the moment Erdogan needs the Kurds' support to keep him in power for up to a decade longer, the Kurds need Erdogan to seize an opportunity to realize their century-old dream of independence.

As the Council on Foreign Relations' Stephen Cook, just back from Iraqi Kurdistan, told me, "Barzani can make Erdogan king of Turkey and Erdogan can make Barzani king of Kurdistan." That's a powerful lobby for the breakup of Iraq.

Marc Champion writes editorials on international affairs for Bloomberg View.

Personnel reforms part of fixing what ails the VA

By MIKE COFFMAN

The revelation of systemic mismanagement and corruption within the Veterans Health Administration has been a shock to the entire country.

As a former Army soldier and a Marine Corps combat veteran, my proudest moment serving as a member of Congress was when Republicans and Democrats on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee stood shoulder-to-shoulder on behalf of our Department of Veterans Affairs, and unanimously voted for a bipartisan "waiting list" for sick veterans at the Phoenix VA hospital. The list was an example of data manipulation used to show a reduction in wait times for veterans' appointments in order to give a false impression regarding the state of VA's care and possibly to secure ill-gotten financial rewards for the committee members and promotions for the management at the hospital. Meanwhile, critical patient care was being delayed.

The subpoena required that the secretary of the VA turn over all written communications between specific employees as they may have discussed the destruction of alleged secret "waiting lists" for sick veterans at the Phoenix VA hospital. The list was an example of data manipulation used to show a reduction in wait times for veterans' appointments in order to give a false impression regarding the state of VA's care and possibly to secure ill-gotten financial rewards for the committee members and promotions for the management at the hospital. Meanwhile, critical patient care was being delayed.

Shinseki resigned shortly after the vote for the subpoena and numerous calls for his resignation, most likely after he realized that the Democrats on the committee were not going to rise to his defense and

that President Barack Obama could not claim that the attacks against the VHA were "just another partisan attack." A nationwide audit found that data manipulation of patient wait times is systemic and not isolated to the Phoenix hospital. That information became public after a retired VHA physician went public with the widespread data manipulation scheme that ultimately cost the lives of veterans by causing their care to be tragically delayed.

Two separate proposals have recently passed the House and the Senate to reform the VHA. Both versions emphasize more resources, some personnel reforms, and have an option for veterans to access private providers, reimbursed by the VA, based on the distance that a veteran lives from a VHA facility or if the time it takes to get an appointment is considered excessive.

The personnel reforms envisioned by both bills only affect the ability to more easily hire and fire senior managers. Neither bill would affect the vast majority of employees within the VHA who, unfortunately, will remain under a very cumbersome and antiquated system.

What I've observed as chairman of the House VA Oversight & Investigations subcommittee is that when misconduct occurs at a VHA facility no one is disciplined or fired, even when a veteran has died from the result of gross negligence. Moreover, no practices have been adopted that are a poor remedy for families who have lost

loved ones.

I fully expect to be appointed to serve on the conference committee to negotiate the differences between the House and the Senate versions. No doubt there is a difference between the House and the Senate about whether the increased cost should be offset by reductions in other areas of the budget; that will be a significant point of contention, and I will fight to reduce spending elsewhere so that these much needed reforms don't further increase our national debt.

Creating a choice for our veterans will help improve the quality of their health care because the VHA will no longer take them for granted and will be forced to see our veterans as their customers. If officials at a given VHA facility continue to ignore the needs of our veterans then they will lose their "customers" to private providers and the facility should subsequently be forced to close.

The majority of the employees, unlike much of the senior leadership at the VHA, are dedicated professionals who truly care about serving our nation's veterans. The men and women who work for the VHA who have had the courage to step forward as "whistleblowers," despite reprisal and retaliation, have allowed the country to understand that there is a very serious crisis of leadership within the VHA.

Mike Coffman, a Republican, represents Colorado's 68th District in U.S. House of Representatives.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE		W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland Timbers	7	6	2	2	22	21	14
D.C. United	7	6	2	2	22	21	14
New England Revolution	7	6	2	2	22	21	15
Toronto FC	6	4	2	2	20	17	15
Philadelphia Union	4	4	5	7	19	18	24
Columbus Crew	4	5	7	19	18	18	24
Montreal Impact	5	10	2	17	16	32	27
Houston Dynamo	2	7	8	14	16	26	29
Chicago Fire	2	7	8	14	16	26	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE		W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle Sounders	11	3	2	3	33	23	11
Colorado Rapids	7	6	3	2	23	22	17
Real Salt Lake	6	3	7	25	22	22	17
FC Dallas	6	5	3	7	22	22	17
San Jose Earthquakes	5	5	3	7	22	22	22
Los Angeles Galaxy	5	5	3	7	22	22	17
San Diego	4	6	4	16	15	15	20
Chivas USA	4	6	4	16	15	15	20

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday, June 27

New York 2, Toronto FC 2, tie
Seattle 1, Portland 0

Saturday, June 28

Portland 1, Real Salt Lake 0
Seattle 2, D.C. United 1

Philadelphia 3, New England 1

Philadelphia 3, FC Dallas 0
Colorado 2, Vancouver 0

Los Angeles 1, San Jose 0

Los Angeles 1, Real Salt Lake 0
San Jose 0, Seattle 0

Sunday, June 29

Portland 3, D.C. United 1
Montreal 3, Houston 0

Toronto FC's games

Toronto FC at Los Angeles
Chivas USA at San Jose

Friday's games

New York at Houston
Seattle at Portland
Columbus at Colorado

New England at Real Salt Lake

Houston at Chivas USA

Saturday's games

D.C. United at Vancouver
Montreal at Chivas USA
Chicago at Sporting Kansas City

Chicago at Sporting Kansas City

Portland at Seattle

Seattle at Portland

Washington at Seattle

Chicago at Seattle

Golf

Presidents Cup points

At Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea Incheon, South Korea

Oct. 5-11, 2013
Through June 29
United States

1. Jimmy Walker	2,389
2. Bubba Watson	1,828
3. Zach Johnson	1,828
4. Dustin Johnson	1,214
5. Zach Johnson	1,214
6. Matt Kuchar	1,815
7. Chris Kirk	1,815
8. Patrick Reed	1,469
9. Patrick Reed	1,469
10. Henrik Stenson	1,399
11. Webb Simpson	1,399
12. Henrik Stenson	1,399
13. Kevin Na	1,279
14. Matt Evers	1,279

International

1. Adam Scott	Aus	9,116
2. Jason Day	Aus	6,666
3. Hideki Matsuyama	USA	3,899
4. Charl Schwartzel	SA	3,899
5. Graham Clark	Can	3,274
6. Thongchai Jaidee	THA	2,508
7. Louis Oosthuizen	RSA	2,654
8. Louis Oosthuizen	RSA	2,654
9. John Senden	Aus	2,477
10. John Senden	Aus	2,477
11. Richard Sterne	RSA	2,223
12. Marc Leishman	Aus	2,200
13. Marc Leishman	Aus	2,200
14. Kei Nishikori	USA	2,007
15. Kei Nishikori	USA	2,007
16. Koumei Oda	Japan	2,000
17. Koumei Oda	Japan	2,000
18. Gabe Norval	SA	1,959

PGA Tour statistics

Through June 29

Scoring Average (Actual)

1. Bernhard Langer	68.0, 2 J. Jay Haas	68.4, 3. Colin Montgomerie	68.2, 4. Fred Couples	68.4, 5. Kirk Triplett	68.2, 6. Michael Allen	68.2, 7. Kenny Perry	68.2, 8. J. P. Morgan	68.2, 9. Tom Lehman	68.0, 10. Eric Bland	68.0, 11. Kenny Perry	68.0, 12. J. P. Morgan	68.0, 13. Tom Lehman	68.0, 14. Eric Bland	68.0, 15. Kenny Perry	68.0, 16. J. P. Morgan	68.0, 17. Tom Lehman	68.0, 18. Eric Bland	68.0, 19. Kenny Perry	68.0, 20. J. P. Morgan
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Driving Distance

1. Gerina Pillay	273.5, 2. Lexi Thompson	269.8, 3. Yani Tseng	265.6, 4. Catriona Gray	268.6, 5. Brittany Lincicome	267.9, 6. JoAnn Rieder	265.9, 7. Stacy Lewis	265.9, 8. JoAnn Rieder	265.9, 9. Catriona Gray	265.9, 10. P.K. Ongkrapong	262.9, 11. Carolyn Chen	262.8, 12. JoAnn Rieder	262.8, 13. Carolyn Chen	262.8, 14. JoAnn Rieder	262.8, 15. Carolyn Chen
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Greens in Regulation Pct.

1. Suzann Pettersen	79.2%	2. Michelle Wie	78.8%	3. Stacy Lewis	78.3%	4. Anna Nordqvist	76.6%	5. Christina Kim	76.0%	6. Gerina Pillay	75.8%	7. JoAnn Rieder	75.8%	8. JoAnn Rieder	75.8%	9. JoAnn Rieder	75.8%	10. JoAnn Rieder	75.8%	11. JoAnn Rieder	75.8%	12. JoAnn Rieder	75.8%	13. JoAnn Rieder	75.8%	14. JoAnn Rieder	75.8%	15. JoAnn Rieder	75.8%
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Birdie Average

1. Stacy Lewis	1.737, 2. Inbee Park	1.756, 3. Linee Vedej	1.766, 4. Han Eun-ju	1.677, 5. Michelle Wie	1.715, 6. JoAnn Rieder	1.775, 7. Sandra Gal	1.776, 8. JoAnn Rieder	1.781, 9. Anna Nordqvist	1.784, 10. Jessica Korda	1.786, 11. JoAnn Rieder	1.786, 12. JoAnn Rieder	1.786, 13. JoAnn Rieder	1.786, 14. JoAnn Rieder	1.786, 15. JoAnn Rieder
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Putting Average

1. Stacy Lewis	1.737, 2. Inbee Park	1.756, 3. Linee Vedej	1.766, 4. Han Eun-ju	1.677, 5. Michelle Wie	1.715, 6. JoAnn Rieder	1.775, 7. Sandra Gal	1.776, 8. JoAnn Rieder	1.781, 9. Anna Nordqvist	1.784, 10. Jessica Korda	1.786, 11. JoAnn Rieder	1.786, 12. JoAnn Rieder	1.786, 13. JoAnn Rieder	1.786, 14. JoAnn Rieder	1.786, 15. JoAnn Rieder
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Major Championships

1. Stacy Lewis	4.50, 2. Michelle Wie	4.02, 3. Suzann Pettersen	3.89, 4. Sharan Fong	3.68, 5. Inbee Park	3.66, 6. Lexi Thompson	3.79, 7. Anna Nordqvist	3.78, 8. Yani Tseng	3.78, 9. Catriona Gray	3.77, 10. Chella Choi	3.73, 11. JoAnn Rieder	3.73, 12. JoAnn Rieder	3.73, 13. JoAnn Rieder	3.73, 14. JoAnn Rieder	3.73, 15. JoAnn Rieder
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PGA Tour money leaders

Through June 29

Points

1. Michelle Wie	815	2. Suzann Pettersen	705, 3. JoAnn Rieder	658, 4. JoAnn Rieder	658, 5. JoAnn Rieder	658, 6. JoAnn Rieder	658, 7. JoAnn Rieder	658, 8. JoAnn Rieder	658, 9. JoAnn Rieder	658, 10. JoAnn Rieder	658, 11. JoAnn Rieder	658, 12. JoAnn Rieder	658, 13. JoAnn Rieder	658, 14. JoAnn Rieder	658, 15. JoAnn Rieder
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Money

1. Michelle Wie	\$1,451,627	2. Suzann Pettersen	\$1,451,627, 3. JoAnn Rieder	\$1,451,627, 4. JoAnn Rieder	\$1,451,627, 5. JoAnn Rieder	\$1,451,627, 6. JoAnn Rieder	\$1,451,627, 7. JoAnn Rieder	\$1,451,627, 8. JoAnn Rieder	\$1,451,627, 9. JoAnn Rieder	\$1,451,627, 10. JoAnn Rieder	\$1,451,627, 11. JoAnn Rieder	\$1,451,627, 12. JoAnn Rieder	\$1,451,627, 13. JoAnn Rieder	\$1,451,627, 14. JoAnn Rieder	\$1,451,627, 15. JoAnn Rieder
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Champions Tour statistics

Through June 29

Points

1. Bernhard Langer	2,480	2. Jay Haas	2,181, 3. Colin Montgomerie	2,181, 4. Fred Couples	2,181, 5. Kirk Triplett	2,181, 6. Michael Allen	2,181, 7. Kenny Perry	2,181, 8. J. P. Morgan	2,181, 9. Tom Lehman	2,181, 10. Eric Bland	2,181, 11. Kenny Perry	2,181, 12. J. P. Morgan	2,181, 13. Tom Lehman	2,181, 14. Eric Bland	2,181, 15. Kenny Perry
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Money

1. Bernhard Langer	\$2,480,000	2. Jay Haas	\$2,181,000, 3. Colin Montgomerie	\$2,181,000, 4. Fred Couples	\$2,181,000, 5. Kirk Triplett	\$2,181,000, 6. Michael Allen	\$2,181,000, 7. Kenny Perry	\$2,181,000, 8. J. P. Morgan	\$2,181,000, 9. Tom Lehman	\$2,181,000, 10. Eric Bland	\$2,181,000, 11. Kenny Perry	\$2,181,000, 12. J. P. Morgan	\$2,181,000, 13. Tom Lehman	\$2,181,000, 14. Eric Bland	\$2,181,000, 15. Kenny Perry
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Champions Tour money leaders

Through June 29

Points

1. Bernhard Langer	2,480	2. Jay Haas	2,181, 3. Colin Montgomerie	2,181, 4. Fred Couples	2,181, 5. Kirk Triplett	2,181, 6. Michael Allen	2,181, 7. Kenny Perry	2,181, 8. J. P. Morgan	2,181, 9. Tom Lehman	2,181, 10. Eric Bland	2,181, 11. Kenny Perry	2,181, 12. J. P. Morgan	2,181, 13. Tom Lehman	2,181, 14. Eric Bland	2,181, 15. Kenny Perry
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Money

1. Bernhard Langer	\$2,480,000	2. Jay Haas	\$2,181,000, 3. Colin Montgomerie	\$2,181,000, 4. Fred Couples	\$2,181,000, 5. Kirk Triplett	\$2,181,000, 6. Michael Allen	\$2,181,000, 7. Kenny Perry	\$2,181,000, 8. J. P. Morgan	\$2,181,000, 9. Tom Lehman	\$2,181,000, 10. Eric Bland	\$2,181,000, 11. Kenny Perry	\$2,181,000, 12. J. P. Morgan	\$2,181,000, 13. Tom Lehman	\$2,181,000, 14. Eric Bland	\$2,181,000, 15. Kenny Perry
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Champions Tour money leaders

Through June 29

Points

1. Bernhard Langer	2,480	2. Jay Haas	2,181, 3. Colin Montgomerie	2,181, 4. Fred Couples	2,181, 5. Kirk Triplett	2,181, 6. Michael Allen	2,181, 7. Kenny Perry	2,181, 8. J. P. Morgan	2,181, 9. Tom Lehman	2,181, 10. Eric Bland	2,181, 11. Kenny Perry	2,181, 12. J. P. Morgan	2,181, 13. Tom Lehman	2,181, 14. Eric Bland	2,181, 15. Kenny Perry
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Money

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35. Mina Harigae 14 \$188,264

36. Brittany Lang 15 \$185,333

37. Caroline Masson 16 \$185,333

38. Line Vedej 17 \$185,333

39. Han Eun-ju 18 \$185,333

40. Haru Nomura 19 \$137,311

41. Mirim Lee 20 \$136,990

42. Haizi Kang 21 \$136,990

43. Sarah Jane Lynch 22 \$136,990

44. Jodi Ewart Shadoff 23 \$136,990

45. Brian Janey 24 \$136,990

46. Sarah Jane Smith 25 \$134,479

47. Jodi Ewart Shadoff 26 \$134,479

48. Brian Janey 27 \$134,479

49. Helen Soutar 28 \$131,583

50. Helen Soutar 29 \$131,583

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL

BALTIMORE — Reinstated Of Nolan Reimold from the 60-day DL and designated him for assignment. Returned to Boston.

BOSTON RED SOX — Traded LHP Rich Hill to the Yankees for OF Ryan Hanley. Released LHP Chris Capuano.

NEW YORK — Traded OF Ryan Hanley to the Yankees for LHP Chris Capu

NFL SCOREBOARD

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	46	39	54.1	
Baltimore	46	39	54.1	
New York	41	45	50.3	
Boston	38	48	44.2	
Texas	37	49	43.0	

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	40	43	57.8	
Kansas City	43	40	51.9	4½
Minnesota	41	42	49.4	7½
Chicago	38	44	46.3	9
St. Louis	38	44	46.3	9

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	51	32	61.4	
Seattle	46	38	54.8	
Los Angeles	43	41	51.3	
Houston	36	49	42.4	16

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	46	36	56.1	
Washington	48	34	58.2	
Cincinnati	40	43	48.2	5½
New York	40	43	48.2	5½
Philadelphia	36	47	43.0	9

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	51	34	60.0	
St. Louis	43	40	51.9	
Chicago	43	40	51.9	
Pittsburgh	40	43	51.9	
Cincinnati	37	46	44.4	13

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	48	38	55.6	
Los Angeles	48	38	55.6	
San Diego	39	46	40.7	10½
Arizona	38	48	44.1	13
Atlanta	35	50	41.2	13

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto, A. Angels & Chicago	White Sox	4	1st	
Baltimore	8	3rd		
Detroit	3	5th		
Cincinnati	2	6th		
Minnesota	10	2nd		
Los Angeles	7	4th		
Houston	2	7th		
Cleveland	10	2nd		
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Cleveland	10			

MLB

AL roundup

Athletics can't solve hot Porcello, Tigers

The Associated Press

DETROIT—The Detroit Tigers aren't just winning games this week. They are making history.

One night after Rajai Davis hit Detroit's first game-ending grand slam in 10 years, Rick Porcello significantly raised the bar.

In a 3-0 win over Oakland, Porcello became just the fourth pitcher in franchise history to throw a shutout without walking or striking out a batter and the first since Dizzy Trout in 1944.

Porcello was slightly disappointed by his 95-pitch outing, even after learning how rare it was.

"In the last couple innings, I was hoping I'd get at least one strikeout," he said. "I didn't want to go out there and put up a zero. Still, with a game like this, I'm certainly not going to trade it in for anything."

Porcello recorded 17 ground-ball outs and 10 in the air with you becoming the first major-leaguer to do that since Baltimore's Jeff Ballard on Aug. 21, 1989.

"To be honest, it was pretty boring out there," said Torii Hunter, who didn't record an out in right field. "But that just shows you how great he was tonight. He was throwing that sinker right down the middle, and it was dropping out of the strike zone, and they were just beating it into the ground."

The A's got three singles and a double and only got one runner to third base.

"Our guys were swinging at strikes, but everything was moving," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said. "He's got a good sinker



DUANE BURLESON/AP

Detroit Tigers catcher Bryan Holaday, left, congratulates pitcher Rick Porcello after throwing a shutout in a 3-0 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday at Comerica Park in Detroit.

and a good change-up, and now he's mixing in a good breaking ball to keep you off balance. That's just a very well-pitched game by him."

Porcello's night might have been historic, but it didn't come out of the blue. He pitched his first career shutout in his previous start, beating the Rangers on June 26, and pitched six shutout innings

against Cleveland on June 20. "I don't want to jinx it," he joked when asked about his shutout streak. "All I know is that I'm throwing the ball really well right now, I'm making consistent pitches when I need them, and my defense is helping me out. I'm also getting some good breaks, which every pitcher needs."

Porcello (11-4) only had one ca-

reer complete game before this stretch, but is now the first Tigers pitcher since Jack Morris to throw back-to-back shutouts. Morris threw three in a row in July, 1986.

Brad Mills (1-1) took the loss for Oakland, allowing three runs on six hits and three walks in six-plus innings.

Rays 2, Yankees 1: David Price came within one pitch of ex-

tending his remarkable strikeout streak in leading resurgent Tampa Bay past host New York.

Price (7-7) struck out nine — he fanned at least 10 in each of his previous five starts, and was trying to join Pedro Martinez, Randy Johnson and Nolan Ryan as the only pitchers to accomplish the feat six straight times.

Mariners 13, Astros 2: Robinson Cano and Kyle Seager had three RBIs apiece and James Jones added two as a seven-run sixth inning helped visiting Seattle score a season high in runs to beat division rival Houston.

Twins 10, Royals 2: Joe Mauer drove in two runs before leaving with an injury and Eduardo Nunez homered as host Minnesota beat Kansas City.

Angels 8-7, White Sox 4-5: Kole Calhoun homered and scored twice in the late game to help visiting Los Angeles complete a sweep of Chicago.

Howie Kendrick added two hits and scored two runs as the Angels moved within 3½ games of Oakland in the AL West.

Interleague

Blue Jays 4, Brewers 1: Jose Bautista and Colby Rasmus hit solo home runs and Drew Hutchison struck out a career-high 10 on the mound to snap a two-start losing streak for host Toronto in the win over Milwaukee.

Cubs 2, Red Sox 1: Luis Valbuena broke a ninth-inning tie with a sacrifice fly that carried visiting Chicago to a victory over Boston.

NL roundup

Strasburg handcuffs Rockies as Nats win 4th straight

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After his last start, Washington Nationals starter Stephen Strasburg said his mechanics weren't right.

Tuesday night he was finely tuned.

Strasburg bounced back from his worst outing of the season with 7½ strong innings, and Jayson Werth had two doubles and three RBIs in the Nationals' 7-1 victory over the Colorado Rockies.

"I just tried to execute pitches better. I wasn't trying to reinvent the wheel," he said. "I think I wanted to go out there and just trust myself, and just have a little bit finer focus. I feel like I was able to keep the ball down a little bit."

Anthony Rendon added a two-run double for Washington, which has won four straight.

Strasburg (7-6) tied his career high in allowing seven earned runs in 4½ innings in his last start — a loss in Milwaukee — and was 0-2 with a 7.27 ERA over his last three.

Tuesday night he struck out eight and walked one while giv-

ing up one run. The Rockies didn't get a runner past second until DJ LeMahieu's homer in the eighth.

"I think strike one is probably the biggest difference," manager Matt Williams said. "He got ahead of a lot of hitters tonight. His curveball was effective, his changeup was effective. Went deep in the game. He threw a lot of pitches, but he was in command."

Strasburg was lifted after walking Corey Dickerson with his 11th pitch.

Tuesday night also was a bounce-back game for Werth, who was 7-for-52 in his last 13 coming in. He doubled home two runs in the first, another in the fourth and walked twice.

"(I) was here late last night watching video with Rick Schu, our hitting coach," Werth said. "Today, had a pretty good mindset going into the game and we made a minor adjustment, just kind of shorten (my swing) up a little bit."

Washington has scored seven runs in three straight games, albeit the last two against the pitching staff with baseball's worst ERA.

Bryce Harper went 1-for-5 in



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Washington's Stephen Strasburg is congratulated by teammates after he hit a double and scored on a double by Anthony Rendon during Tuesday's 7-1 win over the Colorado Rockies in Washington.

his second game back from the disabled list, and every Washington starter hit safely except Ian Desmond.

"There's not an easy one out through eight," Strasburg said. "It's our job as pitchers to go out there and keep it close and let our

(hitters) go out there and win the game."

Christian Friedrich (0-3) allowed five runs in 3½ innings for Colorado, which has lost 13 of 15.

"Every day you can't worry about what happened yesterday," Rockies' first baseman Justin

Morneau said. "You're not going to change it. If you start thinking that way, that's when you get in trouble. When you can put today behind us and come back and try and win a game tomorrow and start over, that's what good teams are able to do."

Padres 8, Reds 2: Seth Smith hit a home run and scored three runs and Carlos Quentin homered and drove in three runs to lead host San Diego over Cincinnati.

Marlins 5, Phillies 4 (11): Ed Lucas' single scored the winning run from second base with one out in the 11th inning, ending host Miami's four-game losing streak and sending Philadelphia to its fifth straight loss.

Pirates 3, Diamondbacks 2: Starling Marte hit a two-run double to tie the game with one out in the ninth inning and then scored on pinch-hitter Ike Davis' single two batters later to propel host Pittsburgh over Arizona.

Braves 5, Mets 4: Andrelton Simmons' two-run single sparked a three-run fourth that sent streaking host Atlanta past Daisuke Matsuzaka and New York.

MLB

Indians turn triple play in rout of Dodgers

By JOE RESNICK
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — One pitch, two replays, three outs.

"I've seen triple plays, but none quite like that," Dodgers left fielder Matt Kemp said Tuesday night. "I guess there's a first time for everything."

The Cleveland Indians turned an unorthodox triple play that required a pair of video reviews, and David Murphy broke out of a 1-for-44 slump with three hits and two RBIs in a 10-3 victory over Los Angeles.

Lonnie Chisenhall started things off for Cleveland with a two-run homer against Josh Beckett (5-5). Nick Swisher and Yan Gomes also drove in two runs apiece for the Indians, held to one hit in back-to-back shutout losses to the Mariners and Dodgers.

"The offense was great and the bullpen was great," Indians' starter Justin Masterson said. "I think we as a team feel very fortunate. We hadn't been hitting as well as we would have liked to the last few games. And to be able to put up runs like that, I think everyone was really excited."

Rookie left-hander Kyle Crockett (2-0) got the win with an inning of one-hit relief, after Masterson failed to get through the fourth with a 5-2 lead. All three of Crockett's outs came on the triple play.



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

Cleveland's Nick Swisher watches his two-RBI double as Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Drew Butera looks on during the third inning of Tuesday's 10-3 win over the Dodgers in Los Angeles.

The Dodgers opened the fourth with Beckett's second double, followed by a bunt hit by Dee Gordon and an RBI single by Yasiel Puig that chased Masterson.

Crockett, the second of seven pitchers used by manager Terry

Francona, came on and Adrian Gonzalez lifted a fly to left fielder Michael Brantley, who threw out Gordon at the plate. Gomes then noticed Puig breaking for second and fired to Jason Kipnis for the tag on Puig as he went in

headfirst. Francona challenged the original safe call by second base umpire Paul Nautert and got the ruling overturned, giving the Indians three outs on one play after a replay delay that lasted 1 minute, 29

seconds. Dodgers manager Don Mattingly then came out to challenge the call at the plate by Adrian Johnson, and that call stood after another wait of 1 minute, 34 seconds.

"I don't think that play itself was frustrating at all," Gonzalez said. "It was just two guys trying to be aggressive — one guy trying to score and the other guy trying to get into scoring position with two outs, and they made the right throws. The only thing that matters is that we lost the game."

Masterson was charged with three runs, seven hits and three walks in three-plus innings. The right-hander escaped a bases-loaded jam in each of the first two innings, after his 18th start of the season was delayed two days because of a sore knee.

"We punched some tickets, so I'd say I was decently happy with the way things took place," said Masterson, who struck out seven. "I didn't go as far as I would have liked, but I was pretty happy."

Masterson threw 37 pitches in the first inning and came out of it with a 3-2 lead after giving up a double to Puig and an opposite-field homer to left-center by Gonzalez — his 14th this season and second in 37 games.

"We had plenty of chances to win the game," Kemp said. "I mean, I can't strike out right there. I've got to at least put the ball in play and make something happen."

Giants' Lincecum dominates Cards

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Tim Lincecum has talked the past few years about rediscovering the consistency that won him two NL Cy Young Awards and made him one of baseball's best pitchers.

Lincecum's last two outings have brought him awfully close to finding that form again. The rejuvenated right-hander followed his second career no-hitter with another vintage performance, pitching eight sharp innings to lead the San Francisco Giants past the St. Louis Cardinals 5-0 on Tuesday night.

"We're to go out there and duplicate when things are feeling good," Lincecum said. "We tried to do that today. All my pitches were working when I threw them. They weren't super nasty — they were just located a little better than usual."

More than a little. Lincecum (7-5) allowed four hits, struck out six and walked two. He worked out of a bases-loaded jam with no outs in the fourth and stayed out of trouble the rest of the way, helping San Francisco snap a four-game losing streak since his latest gem against San Diego. Lincecum left after throwing 113 pitches, including 73 for

strikes — the exact same line as his no-hitter against the Padres last week — before Jean Machi pitched a drama-free ninth.

"I think the two (starts), if you look at them, it's hard to find a big difference," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "It's a guy that had command of all his pitches."

Pablo Sandoval hit his 100th career homer to cap a three-run fourth for the Giants, and he got a bottle of bubbly in the clubhouse afterward. San Francisco also scored twice in the fifth to chase Marco Gonzales (0-1) in the left-hander's second career start.

Gonzales gave up five runs and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings. St. Louis has lost three straight and four of five in a tough stretch against the league's hottest pitchers.

The Cardinals faced a pitcher with a no-hitter this season for the third time in five games. After Josh Beckett and Clayton Kershaw led the Los Angeles Dodgers to victories over St. Louis, Allen Craig singled with one out in the second to put an early end to Lincecum's bid for another no-hitter.

Lincecum, who has shown signs of returning to his dominant form of late, showed the poise and polish of his younger days even when things started to go awry. Lincecum loaded the bases in the fourth before striking out



ERIC RISBERG/AP

Tim Lincecum struck out six in eight innings as the Giants shut out the St. Louis Cardinals 5-0 on Tuesday in San Francisco.

Craig and Jon Jay and getting Daniel Descalso to ground out. Lincecum pounded his glove and received a standing ovation from the sellout crowd of 41,152.

"When a guy's making good pitches, you get him on the ropes you've got to make him bleed a little bit. That one slipped away," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said.

San Francisco supplied all the support Lincecum needed in the bottom of the inning. Buster Posey's double drove in a run before Sandoval's wind-aided fly carried just over the wall in left to give San Francisco a 3-0 lead.

Cruz hits 26th HR as Orioles beat Rangers

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Some people like to mark their birthday with a cake and candles. Nelson Cruz has a different approach.

Cruz hit his 26th home run on his 34th birthday, and the Baltimore Orioles breezed past the skidding Texas Rangers 8-3 Tuesday night.

"A homer and a victory. That was a nice day," Cruz said. "I like to celebrate with homers."

In five career games on his birthday, Cruz is 7-for-19 with two long balls. On this night, his third home run in seven games left him seven short of his career high of 33, set in 2009 with Texas.

Cruz needs one more homer to match his total from last year with the Rangers, a season cut short by a 50-game suspension as part of the Biogenesis performance-enhancing drug scandal.

None of that really matters to Cruz. After signing a one-year, \$8 million contract with Baltimore during the offseason, he is focused

on helping the Orioles earn a post-season berth for the second time in three years.

"It's been a blessing. I'm happy with the situation that we are as a team," he said. "That's more important to me. The numbers at the end of the season we're going to look at it. But right now we focus on winning games, and that's what we're doing."

Steve Pearce and Caleb Joseph also went deep for the Orioles, who have won the first two games of the four-game series with the Rangers. Pearce and Cruz delivered solo shots in the first inning and Joseph connected with one on the second. It was the third homer in two nights for Pearce.

T.J. McFarland (1-1) allowed two runs in a career-high five innings to win his second career start compared to 51 relief appearances.

Rangers rookie Nick Martinez (1-6) gave up eight runs, six earned, and seven hits in five innings. The right-hander is 0-5 with an 8.10 ERA in seven starts since earning his lone career win at Detroit on May 24.

The Rangers (37-46) have lost 11 of 13 overall to fall nine games under .500 for the first time since they were 9-18 on April 29, 2008. Texas has dropped seven straight on the road, its longest such skid in six seasons.



Cruz

NFL/NHL



JAMES A. ESCHER, NEWSDAY/MCT

New York Jets owner Woody Johnson's \$1 million donation for a "smart home" will help Army Sgt. Bryan Dilberian become more self-sufficient after being injured in Afghanistan three years ago.

Jets give \$1M for Army vet's 'smart home'

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — An Army veteran who lost both legs and an arm in Afghanistan three years ago is having a "smart home" built on Staten Island with the help of a \$1 million donation from New York Jets owner Woody Johnson.

Army Sgt. Bryan Dilberian, wearing a Jets jersey while riding on the back of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, got a hero's welcome at a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday. It marked three years to the day that he was injured by an improvised explosive device that killed a few fellow soldiers.

The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation is building the home through its "Building for America's Bravest" program in a partnership with the Gary Sinise Foundation. Johnson donated \$1 million to build two smart homes, including Dilberian's.

"Three years ago, I got hit today," Dilberian told WCBS-TV. "I lost a couple of friends, and it's just, it's like another rebirth."

The 2,800-foot home will have three bedrooms, including a master suite with a customized bathroom, and features throughout that can be run off an iPad.

"It's going to mean everything to me," Dilberian said. "I'm not going to be relying on nurses coming to the house. I love to cook. Now, this is going to give me the fundamentals to cook again."

The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, named after a Brooklyn-based firefighter killed in the 9/11 attacks, helps first responders and wounded soldiers. The Gary Sinise Foundation was started by the Academy Award-nominated actor to honor defenders, veterans, first responders and their families.

It's now Miller time in Vancouver

Canucks sign top available goalie as free-agency season begins

By LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

Day 2 of NHL free agency will have a hard time living up to the first as the biggest names and best players agreed to deals, or signed contracts, on Tuesday.

Ryan Miller, Paul Stastny, Jarome Iginla and Matt Niskanen were among the notable players snatched up soon after the market opened, signing deals with new teams.

Relatively notable players available Wednesday were: Radim Vrbata, Dany Heatley, Mike Ribeiro, David Legwand, Mikhail Grabovski, Ville Leino, Nikolai Kulemin, Steve Ott, Olli Jokinen and Martin Brodeur, the NHL's all-time winningest goalie with 688 victories.

The Vancouver Canucks gave goalie Miller a three-year deal worth \$18 million, ending what has been somewhat of a goaltender soap opera in British Columbia over the past 13 months.

The Canucks needed a proven goalie after trading Cory Schneider to New Jersey and Roberto Luongo to Florida and missing the playoffs this past season. Miller was seen as the best goalie on the free-agent market.

"I felt it was important to get a goalie with experience," Canucks general manager Jim Benning said. "Over the years he's played a lot of games. He gives us that experience that we need."

Benning is familiar with the 33-year-old Miller, having worked in Buffalo's scouting department when the Sabres drafted the player in 1999.

"He's intense and focused," Benning said.

"Our younger players are going to see the way he works in practice, how hard he practices. It's going

to make them better players."

The St. Louis Blues acquired Miller from Buffalo in February, hoping he could lead them deep into the playoffs. But the club was eliminated by the Blackhawks in the first round after Miller allowed 19 goals and had a .897 save percentage.

He was 29-30-4 with a 2.64 goals-against average and .918 save percentage this past season. He has 294 wins, a 2.59 GAA with a .915 save percentage in 559 career games.

Some franchises made bold moves even though they might have overpaid for the best players available.

Stastny cashed in, signing a \$28 million, four-year contract with his hometown Blues, leaving the Central Division rival Colorado Avalanche.

The Avs found someone to score in Stastny's place, picking up an aging player in Iginla who has proven he's still got it—Iginla was given a three-year, \$16 million deal

on Tuesday, his 37th birthday.

The wing had 30 goals to tie for the most in Boston

last season. Colorado

also acquired veteran defenseman Brad Stuart from San Jose.

NHL teams can spend as much as \$69 million, an increase from last season's \$64.3 million salary cap. The Red Wings were willing to spend some of their money on a top defenseman, but each of them passed.

They settled for re-signing Kyle Quincey to an \$8.5 million, two-year deal.

"We pursued some right-shot defenseman and when they were off the market, we signed Quincey," GM Ken Holland said. "The cap went up, and so did the cost of players."

The Washington Capitals also made a big splash — or at least spent the most money on a pair of players — by bolstering the blue line behind superstar Alex Ovechkin and giving defense-minded coach Barry Trotz the pieces he sought to build a winner.

They signed Niskanen to a seven-year, \$40.25 million contract soon after sealing a \$27.5 million, five-year deal with defenseman Brooks Orpik, a pair of former Pittsburgh players.

The Penguins, meanwhile, signed defenseman Christian Ehrhoff, forward Blake Comeau and goalie Thomas Greiss to one-year deals.

The New Jersey Devils picked up offensive help by signing former Calgary Flames sniper Mike Cammalleri to a five-year, \$25 million deal. They also signed former San Jose Sharks' winger Martin Havlat to a one-year, \$1.5 million contract.

The Minnesota Wild signed forward Thomas Vanek to a \$19.5 million, three-year deal, two summers after investing a lot in free agents Zach Parise and Ryan Suter.

Buffalo, which had the fewest points in the NHL last season, and Florida, which was next worst, were very aggressive.

The Panthers added centers Dave Boland (\$27.7 million, five years) and Jussi Jokinen (\$16 million, four years) and defenseman Willie Mitchell (\$8.5 million, two years).

The Sabres restocked with veterans, bringing back forward Matt Moulton (\$25 million, five years) and signing forward Brian Gionta (\$12.75 million, three years).

Ryan Miller answers questions during a news conference on Tuesday introducing him as the new goaltender for the Vancouver Canucks.

DARRYL DYCK, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP



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WIMBLEDON/SPORTS BRIEFS



PAVEL GOLKOVNIK/AP

Defending Wimbledon champion Andy Murray reacts in frustration in his quarterfinal match against Grigor Dimitrov on Wednesday in London. Dimitrov won 6-1, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

Champ Murray eliminated

By **STEPHEN WILSON**
The Associated Press

LONDON — Andy Murray's reign as Wimbledon champion ended Wednesday with a straight-set loss in the quarterfinals to Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov, who is making his breakthrough after years of being touted as the game's next top player.

Dimitrov completely outplayed Murray on Centre Court, winning 6-1, 7-6 (4), 6-2 to reach the semifinals of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time.

The 11th-seeded Dimitrov broke Murray five times — including in the final game — to become the first Bulgarian man to advance to the final four of a major. It was his first victory over a top 10 player at a Grand Slam.

"He was the better player start to finish," Murray said.

Dimitrov will next face top-seeded Novak Djokovic, who came from two sets-to-one down to beat 26th-seeded Marin Cilic of Croatia 6-1, 3-6, 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-2 and reach the Wimbledon semifinals for the fifth consecutive year.

Djokovic, the 2011 champion and 2013 runner-up, extended his perfect record against Cilic to 10-0. He has reached at least the semifinals at 16 of his past 17 Grand Slams.

Djokovic is 3-1 in matches against Dimitrov, who won the Wimbledon warm-up tournament at Queen's Club.

"He hasn't lost a match on grass courts this year," Djokovic said. "He's the player to beat."

Seven-time champion Roger Federer advanced to his 35th Grand Slam semifinal with a 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4, 6-4 win over fellow

Swiss player and Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka.

Federer's first-set loss was the first he'd dropped this tournament in five matches, and also marked the first time he'd had his service broken.

He won on his fifth match point with a smash after a strong first serve.

In women's play, French Open runner-up Simona Halep and Canada's Eugenie Bouchard advanced to the semifinals in straight sets.

Murray last year became the first British man to win Wimbledon in 77 years. He came into the quarterfinals riding a 17-match winning streak at the All England Club, had not dropped a set this tournament and was bidding to retain the title since 1936.

With Prince William and his wife Kate watching from the Royal Box, Dimitrov lived up to his promise on the biggest stage in the game.

"To win any tournament back-to-back, let alone back-to-back on a surface like this which sometimes rests on a few points in a set, it's not always going to go your way," Murray said.

Dimitrov's win marked a huge step forward for a player nicknamed "Baby Fed" because of a style of play — especially the one-handed backhand — resembling that of Federer. The 23-year-old Dimitrov is also well known for being the boyfriend of Maria Sharapova.

He took the initiative right from the start against Murray and never looked back.

"As soon as we started warming up I sensed that his game was not at the highest level but at the

Scoreboard

Wednesday
All The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club
London
Purse: \$42.5 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Grass-Outdoor
Singles
Men
Quarterfinals
Grigor Dimitrov (11), Bulgaria, def. Andy Murray (3), Britain, 6-1, 6-6 (4), 6-2.
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Marin Cilic (26), Croatia, 6-1, 3-6, 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-2.
Roger Federer (4), Switzerland, def. Stan Wawrinka (5), Switzerland, 5-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4, 6-4.
Women
Quarterfinals
Simona Halep (3), Romania, def. Sabine Lisicki (19), Germany, 6-4, 6-6.
Eugenie Bouchard (13), Canada, def. Angelique Kerber (9), Germany, 6-3, 6-4.

same time I was feeling pretty confident," Dimitrov said. "The first set really helped me get into a good rhythm and then I was just holding my ground throughout the whole match."

The statistics told the story: Dimitrov served 10 aces and had 32 winners and 18 unforced errors. Murray served as many double faults (5) as aces and had more unforced errors (37) than winners (24).

"Today was a bad day," Murray said. "I made many mistakes. I think I had one backhand winner the entire match which isn't normally what I do, especially on this surface."

Earlier, Halep and Bouchard won easily to set up a meeting in the women's semifinals. Both players are 15-2 in Grand Slam matches this year.

The other semifinal is an all-Czech matchup between 2014 champion Petra Kvitova and Lucie Safarova.

Briefly

Arbitrator rules Saints' Graham TE

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — An arbitrator has sided with the New Orleans Saints in ruling that Jimmy Graham can only be considered a tight end for the purposes of his franchise tag designation.

The ruling Wednesday by Stephen Burbank is setback for Graham, agent Jimmy Sexton and the NFL Players Association, who'd filed a grievance arguing that Graham was used as a wide receiver often enough to qualify for the more lucrative receiver tag.

NFL franchise tags, which allow teams to keep one prized free agent, was set this year \$7 million for tight ends and \$12.3 million for receivers.

The NFLPA says it's reviewing the ruling and will advise Graham on his options, which could include an appeal.

Graham has skipped Saints offseason practices while holding out for a new contract.

In other NFL news:
■ The Dallas Cowboys have acquired the rights to former Baltimore linebacker Rolando McClain and are placing Sean Lee on season-ending injured reserve with a torn knee ligament.

McClain was the eighth overall pick by Oakland in 2010, but off-the-field issues, including multiple arrests, shortened his career.

Lee has been retired and hasn't played since 2012.

■ Kiko Alonso's season is over before it even began after the Buffalo Bills starting linebacker was diagnosed with a torn ligament in his left knee.

General manager Doug Whaley provided the update in a statement released by the team on Wednesday, a day after Alonso was hurt while working out in Oregon. Whaley said Alonso will require surgery to repair a torn ACL, and "will likely miss the 2014 season."

San Francisco 49ers linebacker Aldon Smith will not face charges related to his arrest earlier this year at Los Angeles International Airport.

Smith was taken into custody April 13 after authorities said he became belligerent during a random security screening and threatened that he had a bomb.

Bulls make pitch to free agent Anthony

CHICAGO — The Chicago Bulls made the hard sell for Carmelo Anthony and brought their stars along for the presentation on Tuesday.

That included Derrick Rose, no fan of recruiting Joakim Noah and Taj Gibson were, too, trying to convince the New York Knicks' free agent to choose the Bulls.

The Bulls believe they have a strong pitch and a simple selling point: Anthony can transform a 16-foot man into a championship contender.

They believe uniting Anthony with Rose and Noah would put them in position to contend for their first title since Jordan and Scottie Pippen led the way to two three-peats in the 1990s. And they certainly made their feelings clear on Tuesday, turning the arena into one big welcome mat.

Two giant digital images above the entrance on Madison Street showed Anthony in a Bulls No. 7 jersey dribbling next to a championship trophy, fans stopping to take pictures. Another image around the corner also showed him in a jersey dribbling.

In other NBA news:

■ Center Marcin Gortat agreed to a \$60 million, five-year contract Tuesday to remain with the Washington Wizards, according to a person familiar with the deal, a major step in the team's quest to keep the roster intact as much as reasonably possible following the end of a playoff drought.

The 30-year-old "Polish Hammer" — the only player from Poland in the NBA — averaged 13.2 points and a team-high 9.5 rebounds, missed only one game and became a vocal locker-room leader.

■ A person familiar with the situation says the Detroit Pistons have agreed to a \$19.5 million, three-year deal with shooting guard Jodie Meeks.

The 6-foot-4 Meeks averaged a career-high 15.7 points and scored a team-high 1,209 points last season for the Los Angeles Lakers. He has averaged 9.7 points over his five-year career.

■ Golden State made a move to fill an important role behind point guard Stephen Curry on the first day teams were allowed to speak with free agents.

The Warriors and guard Shaun Livingston agreed to a three-year contract worth about \$16 million Tuesday, a person familiar with the deal said. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because teams can't sign free agents until the NBA's moratorium ends July 10.

The 28-year-old Livingston averaged 8.3 points, 3.2 rebounds and 3.2 assists with Brooklyn last season. The veteran guard started 54 games — several when point guard Deron Williams was injured — to help the Nets rebound from a horrific start and reach the second round of the playoffs.

■ Australian media reported that San Antonio Spurs point guard Patty Mills will be sidelined for up to seven months with a right shoulder injury.

Cesaré Mills has withdrawn from Australia's campaign for the Aug. 30 to Sept. 14 World Cup in Spain and will undergo surgery in the next few days to repair the rotator cuff in his shoulder.

The news comes hours into the NBA free-agency period that many expected to land Mills a major contract.

WORLD CUP



RICARDO MAZALAN/AP

Argentina's players, right, celebrate their 1-0 victory in extra time as Switzerland's players, left, collapse in dejection Tuesday in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Late winner pushes Argentina past Swiss

Messi continues attracting opponents, fans

By KARL RITTER
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Argentina's theme at this World Cup seems to be scrappy wins with Lionel Messi pulling through at the last minute to save the day.

This time he didn't score on his own, but set the stage for Angel Di Maria to score an extra-time winner against Switzerland.

"It doesn't matter if it's beautiful or ugly," Di Maria said. "Only that Argentina won and will play another game in the tournament."

Argentina will play Belgium in the quarterfinals.

Except for its final group-stage win over Nigeria, Argentina has won its matches in Brazil in the same manner — grinding down its opponents rather than dazzling them with brilliant soccer.

In the first half Tuesday, Argentina struggled to find paths through Switzerland's five-man midfield, and it was the Swiss that produced the best chances.



MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

Argentina's Angel Di Maria celebrates scoring his side's winning goal in extra time Tuesday against Switzerland.

Granit Xhaka pushed Sergio Romero to a great save and Josp Drmic spoiled a great opportunity when he tried to chip the ball over the Argentina goalkeeper.

When cracks started opening in the defense in the second half, goalkeeper Diego Benaglio kept Switzerland in the game, stopping Gonzalo Higuain's header and Messi's shot in the 78th minute.

Benaglio also saved a powerful attempt by Di Maria in extra time, and it looked like the Swiss would be able to push the game into a penalty shootout.

Then, in the 118th, Rodrigo Palacio won the ball in midfield and fed Messi, who dribbled down the middle in trademark fashion, escaping a challenge from Swiss defender Fabian Schaer before popping the ball to Di Maria. Unmarked, the Real Madrid player beat Benaglio with his 10th goal in Argentina's colors.

"What's important is that we moved on to the next stage," said Messi, who has scored four of Argentina's seven goals, including an injury-time winner against Iran. "It was difficult. We knew it was going to be a hard match."

Swiss substitute Elerim Dzemali nearly equalized right before the end but his header hit the post, and the rebound bounced off his knee and wide of the goal.

Switzerland coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, whose brother died at age 81 one the eve of the match, said his team leaves the tournament with "our heads high."

"We made life very tough for them," he said. "They managed to keep their cool. It shows Argentina has a good team."

Hitzfeld said it was his last match as a football coach. He had earlier said he would quit after the tournament.

By JANIE McCAULEY
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Lionel Messi fell, then jumped back to his feet with a little help from the gentlemanly Swiss player who had knocked him down. This happened all afternoon, because Argentina is still a one-man show at this World Cup attracting all of every opponent's attention.

Tackled, pushed or fouled practically each time he touched the ball, the feisty 5-foot-5 forward forcefully hit the ground again and again.

Argentina's leader made one last run on exhausted, beat-up legs to help send Argentina back to the World Cup quarterfinals with a captivating 1-0 extra-time victory against Switzerland on Tuesday.

Messi made a burst down the middle and passed from the top of the 18-yard box to set up Angel Di Maria's goal in the 118th minute.

"First of all, I don't know whether I deserved this one or not, but what's important is that we moved on to the next stage," Messi said when honored as man of the match. "It was difficult. We knew it was going to be a hard match."

The Swiss swarmed Messi from every angle, and his chances were few, but he still delivered the key pass with his nation on the brink.

That's the respect factor No. 10 brings each time he pulls on the uniform, and it was on full display under sunny skies at Itaquera Stadium.

"We know that Messi in one second can decide a match," Switzerland coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said.

The Messi phenomenon has traveled far beyond Buenos Aires and Argentina. This World Cup, it's all about Messi, Brazil-style. Now, there's more: Argentina will face the Belgium in the quarterfinals Saturday in Brasilia.

The crowd erupted in cheers when "No. 10, Messi" was announced 30 minutes before kickoff, then Messi led La Albiceleste onto the field with tens of thousands dancing, singing and waving flags in the stands. He hugged the young boy who had the good fortune of walking hand in hand with one of the globe's most recognizable faces.

A humongous section of Argentines erupted into a 10th-minute trademark chant and Messi tribute tune: "With the hand of Lionel Messi, we're going to be the champions!"



MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates after his team beat Switzerland 1-0 to advance to the quarterfinals against Belgium. Messi assisted on the winning goal.

In the 87th minute, Messi became furious when he took an elbow to the head from Valon Behrami, who was shoved by Messi as he got to his feet.

Messi, who turned 27 on June 24, scored four of his team's six goals to help Argentina capture the top spot from Group F. Those performances helped erase some of the sting of going without a goal in South Africa four years ago, when Argentina lost 4-0 to Germany in the quarterfinals. He did help set up half of Argentina's 10 goals.

He had two great chances Tuesday. Still, the star striker is leaving quite an imprint on Brazil in his third World Cup after that forgettable 2010 performance and a one-goal showing at the 2006 tournament in Germany.

As soon as the animated Argentines were allowed inside, some 2½ hours before kickoff, the chants of "Messi! Messi!" began in earnest.

Now, Messi's special 2014 run rolls on as Argentina chases its third World Cup championship.

WORLD CUP



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Belgium's Romelu Lukaku, right, scores his side's second goal against the U.S. during extra time on Tuesday at the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador, Brazil. Lukaku set up the Belgians first goal after coming on as a substitute at the start of extra time after he fought his way past Matt Besler at midfield.

Lukaku provides spark off bench for Belgians

Extra time sub was too much for tired US defenders to handle

By **DUSAN STOJANOVIC**
The Associated Press

SALVADOR, Brazil — Romelu Lukaku had a point to prove at the World Cup.

After Belgium missed countless chances during the 90 minutes of regulation time in the second-round match against the United States on Tuesday, the powerful striker came off the bench and soon set up the opening goal for Kevin De Bruyne.

As the U.S. pressed for an equalizer, De Bruyne swiftly returned the favor to Lukaku, who made it 2-0.

Despite scoring key goals in World Cup qualifying, Lukaku had a disappointing start in the group matches and was dropped from the starting lineup.

"The media tried to take Romelu down after the first round, but I was convinced that he would still be able to make the difference at this World Cup," Belgian coach Marc Wilmots said after his team secured a spot in the quarterfinals.

Wilmots was the one who went looking for an alternative to Lukaku.

He brought in the 19-year-old Divock Origi, who scored the winner against Russia and provided the shot which allowed Jan Vertonghen to tap in the winner against South Korea.

Origi started against the United States, but missed several scoring chances before he was replaced

by Lukaku.

"I realized I should not put too much pressure on myself and just do everything needed to make the team win," Lukaku said. "And it makes me so happy that this is the way it went today."

"When the other teams tire, we switch into a higher gear," he added. "It is looking good for the future."

Lukaku, 21, has had to deal with disappointment before and it hardened him for his World Cup experience.

He was a teenage standout at Anderlecht with his speed and bulk and was quickly spotted by foreign scouts.

At 18, he joined the team of his boyhood dreams, Chelsea, but things quickly turned sour in London. He failed to get much playing time and was quickly sent on to West Bromwich Albion.

At first, he proved he could rally from disappointment and thrived in the industrial midlands, scoring 17 goals.

He briefly returned to Chelsea early last season, long enough to miss the decisive penalty in the UEFA Super Cup against Bayern Munich, now run by coach Jose Mourinho's nemesis Pep Guardiola.

But soon Lukaku was on his way for another loan spell, this time at Everton, where again he rebounded to start scoring freely.

By the numbers

16

Number of saves by US goalkeeper Tim Howard in Tuesday's match against Belgium, the most recorded in a World Cup game.

38

Number of shots Belgium took on Tuesday, the fourth most in a World Cup game. Of those, 27 were on goal, the most since 1974.

19

Age of US player Julian Green. He became the youngest player to score a goal in the World Cup since Lionel Messi in 2006.

SOURCE: mlssoccer.com

Howard's best can't save the US

By **RONALD BLUM**
The Associated Press

SALVADOR, Brazil — Tim Howard kept the ball out of the net with slides, with dives and with leaps.

He couldn't do it forever. With the United States trying to reach the World Cup quarterfinals for the first time since 2002, he saved 12 of Belgium's shots in regulation to keep the game scoreless.

But Kevin De Bruyne scored in the 93rd minute and Romelu Lukaku in the 105th to build a two-goal lead for the Red Devils, who hung on for a 2-1 win Tuesday that eliminated the Americans in the second round for the second straight World Cup.

Howard tried to sound modest. "I'm just trying to do all the things that have gotten me here and gotten us here," he said. "That's what I signed up to do — stick my face in front of balls. It's nothing startling."

Howard finished with 16 saves, the most in a World Cup game since FIFA started keeping track. It was his finest performance in 13 years with the national team.

"For my heart, please don't give me too many games like this," Belgium coach Marc Wilmots said. "He was in a state of grace."

Howard was the first goalkeeper to be America's No. 1 in consecutive World Cups since Tony Meola in 1990 and 1994. His 104 international appearances are the U.S. record, two more than the previous mark held by Kasey Keller.

"Tim was awesome for us," U.S. captain Clint Dempsey said. "As you would expect from him."

Howard yells a lot during games. More than most goalkeepers. And his teammates love him for that.

"He's somebody that we rely on so much for his performances on the field but also his leadership and his presence," midfielder Michael Bradley said. "There's not enough good things to say about

him as a player, as a man, as a leader."

Now 35, Howard has been the starter for Everton in England's Premier League since the middle of the 2007-08 season. He is signed until 2018 and relishes the grind of the world's top league. He plans to play "as long as my body lets me" and acknowledges "that's obviously not a question that I can really answer now."

He also won't commit to another four years with the national team and the repeated flights from Britain to the U.S., Caribbean and Central America for national team games.

"Those decisions will be made, obviously when I'm less emotional and things settle down and I have a few important conversations with important people," Howard said.

Brad Guzan — Aston Villa's top goalkeeper — is Howard's No. 2 and at 29 is positioned well for the 2018 World Cup should Howard decide to retire from the national team. Calling it an "extraordinary performance," U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati didn't sound as if Howard would be leaving anytime soon.

"I'm not sure Tim is ready to not look toward Russia," Gulati said. "He's one of the players that matters. And nobody goes into a tournament like this with our team and doesn't expect Timmy to play really well."

Howard was among the final American players to leave the locker room of the stadium on Brazil's northeast coast, suddenly and unhappily ready for a few weeks off before reporting to Everton for preseason training.

He carried a small silver-colored case, clearly not part of the gear he had when he arrived at Arena Fonte Nova. Despite the U.S. defeat, he was selected the Man of the Match and was given an award.

Was this his least favorite player of the game honor?

"Yeah," he said. "That's for sure."

Quarterfinals on AFN



Germany vs. France
AFN-Xtra
5:30 p.m. Friday CET
12:30 a.m. Saturday JKT



Brazil vs. Colombia
AFN-Sports
9:30 p.m. Friday CET
4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT



Belgium vs. Argentina
AFN-Sports
5:30 p.m. Saturday CET
12:30 a.m. Sunday JKT



Cosat Rica vs. Netherlands
AFN-Sports
9:30 p.m. Saturday CET
4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

WORLD CUP



FELIPE DANA/AP

United States goalkeeper Tim Howard makes a save during Tuesday's round of 16 match against Belgium at the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador, Brazil. Howard finished with 16 saves, the most of any World Cup since 1966.

Scoreboard

Round of 16

Saturday, June 28
 Brazil 1, Chile 1, Brazil advanced 3-2 on penalty kicks
 Sunday, June 29
 Colombia 2, Uruguay 0
 Costa Rica 1, Greece 1, Costa Rica advanced 5-3 on penalty kicks
 Monday, June 30
 France 2, Nigeria 1, ET
 Germany 2, Algeria 1, ET
 Tuesday, July 1
 Argentina 1, Switzerland 0, ET
 Belgium 2, United States 1, ET

Quarterfinals

Friday, July 4
 At Fortaleza, Brazil
 Brazil vs. Colombia
 At Rio de Janeiro
 France vs. Germany
 Saturday, July 5
 At Salvador, Brazil
 Netherlands vs. Costa Rica
 At Brasilia, Brazil
 Argentina vs. Belgium

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End: Americans came close to knotting score

FROM BACK PAGE

The Americans nearly did. In the 114th, Clint Dempsey punted away on a 30-yard free kick by Bradley, who passed ahead to Chris Wondolowski. He fed Dempsey, and goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois bolted off his line to block the 6-yard shot.

At the final whistle, the U.S. players fell to the field in their all-white uniforms like so many crumpled tissues.

"They made their country proud with this performance and also their entire performance in this World Cup," said Jurgen Klinsmann, the former German World Cup champion who took over as coach three years ago.

The Americans advanced from a difficult first-round group to reach the knockout rounds of consecutive World Cups for the first time. Four years ago, they were eliminated by Ghana 2-1 on a goal in the third minute of extra time.

"Getting to the round of 16, if we don't do that, we're very, very disappointed," U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati said. "We get here and it's kind of the swing game. We get beyond here, then it's generally viewed as very successful — this year was a little different because of the group we had in the first round, so that I think is already a success."

The crowd of 51,227 at Arena Fonte Nova appeared to be about one third pro-U.S., with 10 percent backing the Belgians and the rest neutral. Back home, millions watched in offices, homes and public gatherings that included a huge crowd at Chicago's Soldier Field.



NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

United States players Jermaine Jones, left, and DaMarcus Beasley show their disappointment after the 2-1 loss to Belgium.

President Barack Obama joined about 200 staffers in an Executive Office Building auditorium to watch the second half.

"I believe!" he exclaimed as he walked in at the front of the hall. "I believe!"

Belgium outshot the U.S. 38-14. The 35-year-old Howard kept the ball out with slides, with dives and with leaps. But he never felt it was his special night.

"If this continues, then we're in trouble," he recalled thinking.

With forward Jozy Altidore still not recovered from the strained hamstring that had sidelined him since the June 16 opener, Klinsmann inserted Wondolowski as a second striker in the 72nd minute. He appeared to have a chance to win it in stoppage time when Jermaine Jones flicked the ball to him at the top of the 6-yard box,

but with Courtois coming out, Wondolowski put the ball over the crossbar. While the linesman put out his flag, it was unclear whether he was signaling goal kick or offside.

In the third minute of extra time, Matt Besler tried to intercept a pass to Lukaku but fell down as the Belgian striker fought free. Lukaku sped in alone, crossed, and the ball rebounded off defender Omar Gonzalez.

Kevin De Bruyne controlled it, took three touches as he spun and beat Howard just over his right foot.

"I thought I could make a play on the ball. I took a shot and missed and lost my balance," Besler said.

Twelve minutes later, with the U.S. pushing for an equalizer, Bradley's shot was blocked and De Bruyne burst ahead on a counter. He fed Lukaku, who sent the ball over the left shoulder of Howard, his Everton teammate, and seemingly put the game out of reach.

But Green, among five German-Americans on the U.S. roster and a surprise pick, woke up the team and its fans with his first touch, setting off raucous chants of "U-S-A! U-S-A!"

There would be no final comeback this time, though. Bradley said the Americans had told themselves that regardless of when their run ended, they wanted to abandon their defensive style of the past.

"We wanted to go home going for it," he said.

"And" he added with satisfaction, "we did."

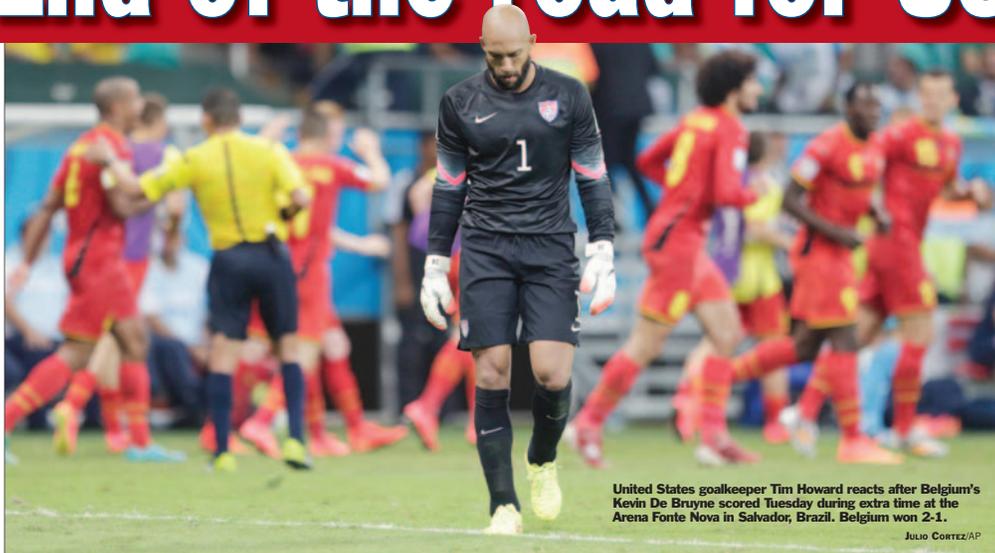
SPORTS



No chance of repeat
Defending men's champ Murray
ousted in quarterfinals | **Page 28**

WORLD CUP

End of the road for US



United States goalkeeper Tim Howard reacts after Belgium's Kevin De Bruyne scored Tuesday during extra time at the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador, Brazil. Belgium won 2-1.

JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Belgium turns back Americans in extra time

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

SALVADOR, Brazil — They captured the hearts of America — from coast to coast, big towns and small, all the way to the White House.

Capturing the World Cup will have to wait.

Just like four years ago, the United States is going home after the round of 16, beaten when Belgium scored twice in extra time Tuesday and then held on for a 2-1 win.

"Thirty-one teams get their heart broken," goalkeeper Tim Howard said. "It has to end sometime. It ended a little bit early for us."

Playing the finest game of his career, Howard stopped a dozen shots to keep the Americans even through regulation and force an additional 30 minutes. He wound up with 16 saves — the most recorded in a World Cup game since FIFA started keeping track.

Inside:

- US goalie Howard has game of career, Page 30
- Argentina needs extra time to advance, Page 29

Before exiting, the U.S. showed the spunk that won America's attention. The Belgians built a two-goal lead when Kevin De Bruyne scored in the 93rd minute and Romelu Lukaku in the 105th.

But then Julian Green, at 19 the third-youngest player in the tournament, stuck out his right foot to volley in Michael Bradley's pass over the defense in the 107th, two minutes after entering.

"I was sure that we would make the second goal and we would go to the penalty shootout," Green said.

SEE END ON PAGE 31



ANDY JACOBSON, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Emily Larsen of Midlothian, Texas, grips her flag as the clock winds down in extra time during a watch party in Arlington, Texas.

Wave of signings leave Day 2 pickings slim

NHL, Page 27

Triple play helps Indians rout Dodgers

MLB, Page 26

